

100 LEWES WOMEN

Women's history in Lewes past & present

Wealth is no proof of
moral character; nor
poverty the want of it.
Thomas Paine 1737-1809

Let women share the rights
... for she must grow
when emancipated.

Mary Wollstonecraft 1759-1797



The Rights of Woman



**VOTES
FOR WOMEN**



WANTED

EVERYWHERE!

GIVE WOMEN RIGHTS

LEWES

DIGNITY PURITY HOPE

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Contributors: Karen Dobres, Jane Foot, Katie Hawks, Diana Wilkins (editor). Many thanks to Graham Mayhew, Jan Newbury, Amy Zamarripa Solis and Frances Stenlake for additional material.

Front cover: Heather Downie, Suffrage Centenary banner on display in Lewes Town Hall

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Foreword

When many of us think of rights of women and girls, the image that comes readily to mind is that of women exercising their democratic right to vote, won for us by the suffragists and suffragettes in 1918 and 1928.

Yet hundreds of millions of girls today are still struggling to achieve their dignity, rights and hopes, and follow in the footsteps of the incredible 50 local women highlighted in this book. Girls and women are still vulnerable to discrimination – ranging from stereotyping, equal pay, equal opportunities, safety, confidence, sexual harassment, and lack of respect. While many of the statistics show that women's lives have improved, we are not complacent.

It was an ambition of mine while I was a Mayor of Lewes to shine a light on these issues by talking to a 100 girls who participated in our Girls for Change Day to understand their lives in Lewes. The second half of this book reports on what they said and what they care about. How moving and inspiring the girls' conversations are. They are our hope for the future locally, with such thoughtful and passionate young women growing up in the Town. I am sure many of them will be recognised in the future, like the 50 Women in Lewes in the first half of this book.

I believe that every excluded girl or woman bears witness to a moral offence: the failure to secure her dignity, rights and hopes, and her right to participate equally in society. Let us all act now to remove the barriers so that girls can safely grow, attend school, and participate in all spheres of life.

I am so happy that the Day is being reported on here. It is my hope that schools in other places can replicate what we did with not only girls, but boys too.

Thanks to the Lewes Town Council for making this a reality, the volunteers from Reeves Project, the schools for enabling the girls to participate, and all the VIP guests for coming to listen. And most importantly of all, thank you to the girls who shared their hopes and dreams with us.

Change is possible.

Cllr Dr Janet Baah

PhD – International Education Policy and Development.

Introduction

In 2018, Lewes celebrated the centenary of British women getting the vote. A hundred years before in 1918, an Act of Parliament had given the vote to some women over 30, along with millions more men. The country was set on the path to equal voting rights which were finally achieved in 1928. Lewes hosted a wide range of commemorations to mark this milestone in democracy. These included the mayor's Girls for Change event, the Reeves Archive exhibition From Suffrage to Citizenship, tourist office displays, expert talks, a screening of the film Suffragette, suffragettes marching at Lewes bonfire and a mayoral 'soup kitchen' welcoming travellers at Lewes train station.

These events were supported by a group of local women who came together to mark the centenary and to celebrate women's contribution to public life. One outcome was the Vote100Lewes.com website to highlight local women's history. We recognise that stories of women's lives and contributions are often missing from mainstream history, even though women make up half the population. Sometimes this is because women have been deliberately excluded from public life, or because their efforts were not recorded at the time. Sometimes it's because women's stories were erased afterwards when history was written from a male perspective.

To help address this gap, our booklet identifies a hundred notable women of Lewes, past and present, who have worked for social, cultural and political change. In other words, women who have actually done something. They include young women from the town's ground-breaking women's football team – the first female players in the world to be paid the same as their male counterparts. Other articles cover local women who campaigned for the right to vote, or who were active in local politics as legal barriers to their participation finally fell. We even look back in over 900 years to the founding of Lewes Priory by Gundrada and her husband William de Warenne.

The booklet provides biographies and interviews for fifty women and lists another fifty women as a stimulus to further research. These articles are based on nominations and blogs by the 'Vote100Lewes' group during 2018 to 2020. The articles are factual, thought-provoking and entertaining rather than formal research. Including a report of the 'Girls for Change' day for teachers and others who might like to repeat the event.

We hope you enjoy reading about the rich mix of the women who have shaped our town and the surrounding area.

Web: vote100Lewes.com

Facebook: [Vote100Lewes](https://www.facebook.com/Vote100Lewes) Twitter: [@Vote100Lewes](https://twitter.com/Vote100Lewes)

Fifty Lives of Lewes Women

1: Daisy Ashford



Daisy Ashford didn't really change society, but her novel *The Young Visitors* is one of the most charming books you'll read. She wrote it in Southdown House, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes when she was nine – so perhaps it's helped us take children seriously! I'm including Wikipedia's synopsis of the story, because it's rather well written:

Alfred Salteena, an “elderly man of 42”, has invited 17-year-old Ethel Monticue to stay with him. They receive an invitation to visit Alfred's friend, Bernard Clark, which they readily accept. Bernard is “inclined to be rich” and shortly after their arrival, Ethel and Bernard are already attracted to each other.

Alfred seeks Bernard's advice on how to become a gentleman. Bernard is doubtful that this can be managed, but writes an introduction to his friend, the Earl of Clincham. Alfred excitedly rushes off to London to visit the Earl, leaving Ethel alone (and unchaperoned) with Bernard.

Lord Clincham lives, as do many other aristocrats, in “compartements” at the Crystal Palace. He agrees to assist Alfred and installs him in a subterranean “compartement”, along with other “apprentice gentlemen”. He invites Alfred to accompany him to a reception hosted by the Prince of Wales (the future King Edward VII), introducing Salteena as Lord Hysops. The Prince is impressed and promises to assist the trembling and overjoyed Salteena. Bernard and Ethel are in love and marry. Devastated by these events, Salteena marries a maid-in-waiting at Buckingham Palace. Lord Clincham also marries, but not very happily.

Ashford worked for the Catholic Soldiers' Club in Bexhill, before marrying one James Devlin and moving to Norfolk.

Photo: Daisy Ashford, 1919, Wikipedia Commons

2: Gundrada de Warenne



Noble women in Anglo-Saxon and early Anglo-Norman England had more power than they did later, but nonetheless they still tend to be parked on the sidelines of history. In fact, these women were fundamental to the religious, social and even political life of England. Henry I's wife Matilda, for example, was a major religious patron, and was Henry's vice-regent in his absence from the kingdom – and yet she is largely absent from general history books. Women were often religious patrons, and, given the importance of the Church in mediaeval society, they were therefore quite influential.

One patron was Gundred, or Gundrada, de Warenne. She was the daughter of Gerbod the Fleming, a Flemish nobleman, and sister of another Gerbod, one of William the Conqueror's chief captains, who became Earl of Chester. Her other brother Frederic was also a major landowner in both Flanders and England. Sometime before 1070 she married William de Warenne. He was a much smaller nobleman (in landholding, not stature!), and this was a good match for him. As one of William the Conqueror's boon companions, Warenne was on the up.

After the Battle of Hastings, Warenne was well-rewarded for his loyal service, gaining lands in Yorkshire, East Anglia, and, of course, Sussex. Gundred would inherit her brothers' estates in Flanders, Frederic being killed by Hereward the Wake and Gerbod apparently giving up worldly life to become a Cluniac monk in the early 1070s. If so – and chronicles disagree – then the family of Gundred already had a link with the Cluniac order.

In 1078, Gundred and William set out for Rome, but, because of a clash between the Pope and the Holy Roman Emperor, they got stuck in France. They visited the abbey at Cluny and were so taken with it that they decided to found not one but two Cluniac priories in England – Lewes and its daughter-house at Castle Acre in Norfolk.

Gundred's part in founding Lewes Priory is invariably as being William's wife. Lewes Priory's excellent website says: Lewes Priory was founded by William de Warenne and his wife Gundrada between 1078 and 1082. That is quite true, of course, but note that William gets a hyperlink and Gundred does not. And it's 'William and his wife', not 'William and Gundrada de Warenne.'

Gundred died at Castle Acre in 1085, but was buried in the chapterhouse at Lewes (that was the building reserved for the burials of the most important people). William, when he died, was buried next to her. Their remains now lay under the floor of Southover Church.

Given that Gundred was wealthy in her own right, and the primary link between the Cluniacs and the Warennes was perhaps through her, does she not deserve to be a little more than just William's wife? How about 'Lewes Priory was founded by Gundrada and William de Warenne'?

Image from Wikipedia

3: Kate Fowler Tutt – Local Suffrage Pioneer

Miss Kate Fowler Tutt (1868-1954),

photo ©Edward Reeves Lewes

The daughter of a Brighton butcher, Kate was raised in modest circumstances but received a good education thanks to her grandmother's encouragement. Kate's commitment to education led her to become a teacher and then the headmistress at South Malling Elementary School in Lewes. Later in 1913, she became head of the Central Senior Girls School in Southover. While at South Malling, Kate saw the deprivation among her pupils at first hand and she campaigned for improvements in children's health for the rest of her life.

Kate was initially sceptical of the need for women to have the parliamentary vote and was against militant action. She thought there should be a 'Parliament of Women' to deal with problems affecting women and children, especially as these were often overlooked by government. Over time, Kate became more convinced of the need for the vote. She often spoke at meetings on children's health alongside Greta Allen, a nurse and prominent suffragette, who lived nearby. By the time of the 1918 general election, Kate was speaking at public meetings urging women to use their votes. She went on to become Lewes' second female borough councillor serving on over twenty committees between 1924 and 1945.

As a councillor she pursued improvements in health and education and campaigned for good quality housing, contributing to the plans for the Nevill estate in the 1920s. Kate used her position in civic life to work tirelessly for the interests of women and children.

In 2018, she was recognised as a Suffrage Pioneer by the Women's Local Government Society which encourages women to enter public life. According to her great nephew, Geoffrey Fowler Tutt, "She was a real heavy-weight who broke down a lot of barriers for women."

This article draws on Frances Stenlake's paper 'Rehabilitating Kate Fowler Tutt, 1868-1954: Lewes Educationalist, Social Activist and Feminist', *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, Vol 154, 2016, pp. 274-90, available from Archaeology Data Service.

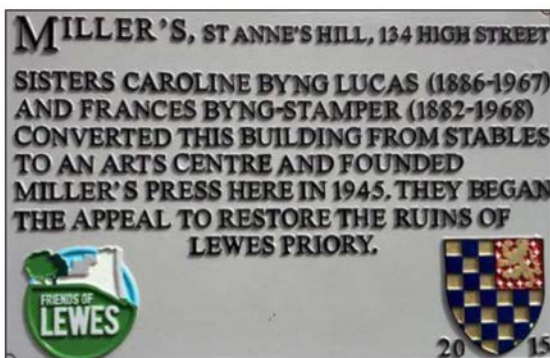


4 & 5: The Ladies of Miller's:

Caroline Byng-Lucas and Frances Byng-Stamper

A plaque at 134 High Street Lewes marks the site of The Millers Gallery. Now a private home, the building was a gallery and a press from 1941 to the mid-1950s. The gallery was run by two sisters, the sculptor Caroline Byng-Lucas and her older sibling Frances Byng-Stamper. Known locally as the 'Ladies of Miller's', the sisters were sufficiently well-connected to be able to

show work by internationally-known artists including Pissarro, Augustus John, Cézanne and Matisse. The sisters also invited prominent cultural figures to the gallery. Sir Kenneth Clarke, Director of the National Gallery, was invited to the opening, and the novelist E.M. Forster gave readings there. The sisters also showed paintings by the Bloomsbury artists, Duncan Grant and Vanessa Bell, who lived at nearby Firle.



The sisters wanted to move beyond the limits of the gallery in their attempt to spread 'the spiritual vitamins which the arts provide'. They set up an art school in East Street, Lewes, with Grant and Bell as teachers. There were also plans for a theatre in a decommissioned chapel. While wartime may seem an inauspicious time to open a new gallery, Miller's was not alone in trying to encourage a revival of artistic activity. This was the era of 'art for all' which saw the creation of the Lewes Little Theatre in 1939, the Paddock Art Studio in 1946 and the forerunner of the Lewes Literary Society in 1948.

In 1989, the Towner Gallery mounted an exhibition to commemorate the sisters' efforts to bring inspirational British and European art to Sussex. You can see a portrait of them by Cedric Morris, *Two Sisters* (1935), at the National Museum Wales.

Frances Spalding, *Vanessa Bell*, London: Weidenfeld & Nicholson, 1983, pp. 322-323. Diana Crook, *The Ladies of Miller's*, Lewes: Dale House Press, 1996, pp. 21-30.

6: Faye Baker, Goalkeeper, Lewes FC



Faye Baker played as goalkeeper for Lewes FC Women until her departure in June 2020.

What do you do?

I work within a secondary school in Brighton within the SEN department, providing assistance and help for a variety of students with different learning needs. I'm also Goalkeeper for Lewes FC Women's Team.

Which women have inspired you?

Sounds cheesy but the main woman who has inspired me will always be my mum - no matter

how tricky life gets or whatever we have been through she has always been there with a smile on her face keeping the family strong. If I become half the woman she is I will have done well! Others are predominantly sports stars who have done really well. Growing up I was inspired by the first team goalkeepers at the West Ham Ladies Club (the one I was playing for) as they held the position that I one day hoped to go on and take from them. I feel that there are lots of inspiring women all around the world and we should empower and encourage each other!

What do you love about your role?

That I'm a role model for younger girls and can hopefully inspire them to believe in themselves and achieve great things through hard work and dedication.

What do like about Lewes?

I haven't lived in Lewes for very long at all so don't know an awful lot about it - however, through football I can tell it has a real community feel and there are and have been some very powerful women around.

What would you change about Lewes?

I'm fairly young and I feel Lewes is a bit of a dated area with not much going on for young people, so I'd add some life!

How old were you when your enthusiasm for football was first taken seriously?

I was very young when I started playing football and back then there weren't many opportunities for girls to play professionally – it was seen as more of a hobby – so I feel as though I adopted this view.

It wasn't until I was around 22 that I decided I wanted more from football. By then the women's game had developed substantially which made me believe I could possibly make it more than a hobby. Coaches always took my enthusiasm seriously as I showed a huge amount of love for the game, however, had I told people I wanted to be a footballer when I grew up, I think I'd have been laughed at!

What would you say to a young girl interested in playing football professionally? What would your advice to her be?

I would tell her: "Work hard, stay dedicated, and do not let anyone tell you "you can't"! There will be doubters, and people who think you are not good enough, but if you want it bad enough and are willing to make the necessary sacrifices there's no reason why you cannot achieve those dreams!"

How do you think women's football has changed so far in your lifetime?

Within my lifetime and playing career, women's football has grown massively. I had no choice but to play within a boys' team growing up – there were no girls teams – I was the only girl in a whole league full of teams! At every game one of the players or parents would comment 'They have a girl playing for them!'

When I was at secondary school there was no girls football team: it wasn't a sport we played. Instead I'd leave school every day and play in the street with my friends and older brother, or travel nearly an hour to train with West Ham. Now there are so many clubs, and girls programmes which enable young girls to play football. Girls now have female footballers to look up to – actual professional players who can say their job is to play football! I never had that – many of my sporting idols were men – and for me the dream is still one day to be able to say 'I play football as my full-time job!'

7: Ruth Gipps

Like a lot of professions, classical music has been, and still is, highly gendered. Whilst it's acceptable for women to sing, or play the piano, harp, flute or other lady-like instruments, it's less acceptable for them to be brass players or conductors or even – perish the thought – composers. Female composers nowadays are being recognised – the current Master of the Queen's Music is Judith Weir – but female composers of the past are still, quite literally, unsung. One of these is Ruth Gipps, whose name deserves to be up there with the best of 20th-century British composers.



Gipps was born in Bexhill in 1921. She showed early talent as a musician. Her mother was a pianist, and it was as a pianist that Gipps won the Caird Scholarship to study at the Royal College of Music in 1937. There she studied composition with Ralph Vaughan Williams and Gordon Jacob; she also studied the oboe with Leon Goossens. It's few musicians who could, as she did in Birmingham, play the solo in a Glazunov piano concerto and then join the orchestra in the next part as *cor anglais* player in her own First Symphony! She got her doctorate in music (possibly the first woman to do so through examination) while seven months pregnant.

Her conducting career started as chorus master of the City of Birmingham Choir. When, however, she went for a BBC conducting post, she was rejected on the grounds that a woman wouldn't be taken seriously. Undeterred by the establishment's misogyny, she set up her own orchestra, the London Repertoire Orchestra, which provided a much-needed environment for young professional musicians to cut their teeth. In later years, she moved back to Sussex, conducting Heathfield Choral Society, and playing the organ at Hurstwood and then Ripe & Chalvington – which are near enough Lewes for her to be included in our Lewes women! She became a familiar figure on the local roads in her 1968 Morgan, driving open-topped in all weathers. She died in Eastbourne in 1999.

Gipps taught composition at the RCM 1967–1977, by which time her style was unfashionable, as everyone now had to write atonal stuff. She moved on to become Professor of Music at Kingston Poly. Her own music is very much in the style of Vaughan Williams and Bliss, but because she was of a younger generation and, moreover, a woman, her music has not been performed regularly at all – and barely recorded.

Image via Newyorkartsnet

8: Avilla Bergin, winger, Lewes FC

What do you do?

I currently live in Lewes because not only am I studying at Falmer, but I am also a winger for Lewes Women's Football team – a position I'm thoroughly enjoying, as we approach the end of a successful season.

I am also a masters student at Brighton & Sussex Medical School at the Falmer campus. I am currently studying to be a Physician Associate, a role relatively new role to the NHS. It involves working alongside medical professionals completing examinations, diagnosis and treatment for patients.



Which women have inspired you?

As a sports woman I'm always particularly inspired by women who've excelled in the sporting arena. In particular, females who've had children and still dominated in their sport such as Jessica Ennis and Paula Radcliffe – as well as phenomenal women like Ellie Simmonds, who has overcome so many obstacles to become an extremely successful British Paralympian. Serena Williams also, who has shown so much determination to dominate tennis for so long. As an athlete I understand the sacrifices required to reach the levels these women have, and for that they have my admiration.

What do you love about your role?

Going back to university has been a change for me, having worked full-time in London previously. So far, the course has really excited and interested me. I am based in medical settings as well as the university campus and I've learnt a vast amount in the last few months. Being able to work in a domain where I can directly improve people's lives is a nice prospect for me.

Playing for Lewes FC has been a pleasure: the opportunity to play for a club at the forefront of gender equality in football is a real privilege. I feel very lucky to be part of this movement alongside a fantastic bunch of women.

What do like about Lewes?

I love the fact that for a small place it has a real buzz not to mention how picturesque it is. The medieval streets and the markets have a real cultural vibe which I love. I am from Ireland and it actually reminds me a lot of home, which is comforting and made moving here quite easy.

What would you change about Lewes?

As I mentioned I lived in London before Lewes, and at times I miss the hustle and bustle – even the sweaty tubes (believe it or not!). But, having said that, for studying and playing football it's the ideal spot!

How old were you when your enthusiasm for football was first taken seriously?

I joined my first team when I was 8 – before then it was mainly kick-about with my siblings and football-mad dad. I didn't have the luxury of a girls' team at that time so played with boys. This had its challenges, but I also think it helped me to reach the levels I have. I was able to join a girls' team by 10 and progressed to international level by under 14. So, it didn't take too long for my enthusiasm for football to be taken seriously. Nowadays eight-year-old girls (and even younger), are lucky that they can usually join girls' teams straight away, and the pathway to being 'elite' has definitely improved.

What would you say to a young girl interested in playing football professionally? What would your advice to her be?

Thankfully the dream of playing professionally for today's young girls is much more realisable than when I was young. It's taken quite a while, but the female game has soared in popularity and with this come increased opportunities.

However, the pathway will still be a lot harder than it is for their male peers and they may face more obstacles along the way. My advice would be always remember to play because you enjoy it. If you lose the enjoyment and love for the game then the rest is irrelevant in my opinion. To fully enjoy your football work hard and then reap the rewards!

How do you think women's football has changed so far in your lifetime?

Quite drastically. America was the dream when I was younger. I was lucky to secure a scholarship and play in New York. When I returned to the UK, I was slightly frustrated with how little had changed. I think success on an international level in recent years has opened a lot of eyes, and recently a lot of effort has been put into increasing participation and opportunities at both grassroots and elite levels. This has proved beneficial.

Women's football is still a long, long way behind the men's game but with continued support and funding I am optimistic that it can continue to flourish and grow.

9: Mary Ann Mantell

Among the plaques on the High Street in Lewes is the one to Gideon Mantell (top Right). But this needs changing, for, according to the story, it was not he who discovered the fossil bones but his wife, Mary Ann Mantell (née Woodhouse; c.1795 – c. 1855, middle right).

Gideon was a talented doctor. In 1822, while he was visiting a patient, his wife took a walk through Cuckfield. Like her husband, Mary had a good eye for fossils, and she saw on the road-side a number of interesting teeth. She scooped one up, and Gideon sent it to the great expert Georges Cuvier. Cuvier initially dismissed it as a rhinoceros tooth, but Gideon sent him more and he changed his mind: this was indeed a herbivorous dinosaur. Gideon named it an iguanodon ('iguana-tooth') after seeing iguanas at the Natural History Museum. Mary helped him write up his discoveries of fossils, illustrating his 1822 publication, *The Fossils of the South Downs*, and his 1827 *Illustrations of the Geology of Sussex*.



DR GIDEON & MARY MANTELL
(1790-1852) (C.1795-C.1855)
GEOLOGISTS
LIVED HERE

TOGETHER THEY DISCOVERED
THE FOSSIL BONES
OF THE PREHISTORIC
IGUANODON
IN THE SUSSEX WEALD

After 23 years of marriage, and three children, Mary left Gideon (and, by law, therefore also her children) in 1839. In 1852, he died from an opium overdose – which perhaps suggests a reason for the divorce. It would be nice to see a new plaque on the High Street like the one on the bottom left.

Image of Mary Ann Mantell from Wikipedia

10: Tammy Waine



At 39, Waine is currently Lewes FC Women's oldest player, and regularly has spectators marvelling at her skill, borne of experience. She has perfected a move, dubbed by fans as 'The Tammy Turn', which involves maintaining legendary composure whilst stealing the ball with deliberately cunning and seriously skillful footwork - leaving her confused opponent yards away!

What do you do?

I work for Adur and Worthing councils as a Families and Wellbeing Officer. I am also a personal trainer and football coach...plus I play for Lewes FC Women.

Which women have inspired you?

I've had a few really good female football coaches, in particular Julie Hemsley and Josie Clifford here in England. They helped me in my younger years to become the player I am now. Karen Hoppa from my university in the USA was the one who really pushed me and made me realise how important strength and conditioning is for footballers.

What do you love about your role?

I enjoy all the roles I undertake as I love working with and getting to know people. As a coach and personal trainer, I love being a role model and helping people improve. I know how important it is to have people who motivate and inspire you in your life.

What do like about Lewes?

I love Lewes Football Club as it has a family feel. We have great staff, volunteers, fans and, of course, players! It had a special feel about it that a lot of other clubs would envy.

What would you change about Lewes?

At the Football Club it would be great to have a strength and conditioning room and a better physio suite. Keeping players fit and strong helps prevent injuries which in turn keeps us on the pitch. Having those facilities and links with specialists would mean if we did get injured we could get treated quicker. This in turn means that, crucially, we'd be back on the pitch quicker.

How old were you when your enthusiasm for football was first taken seriously?

I was involved with the National Team at the age of 18. I was with them for many football camps and for a world cup qualifier against Holland. Unfortunately, I never got my cap due to an injury.

Then, being in the USA was amazing. It gave me the opportunity to experience being treated as a professional player. We trained every day there, and got great strength and conditioning, and top medical treatment.

What would you say to a young girl interested in playing football professionally? What would your advice to her be?

To any young girl wanting to play pro... I would say go for it! It is now a realistic goal! Players need to work hard, get fit and strong and display the right attitude in order to give themselves the best chance to succeed. I would always advise to get a good education too - just in case things don't work out.

How do you think women's football has changed so far in your lifetime?

Things have changed massively since I started playing. The opportunities are incredible now. There are clear links between semi-pro and professional clubs, better facilities and coaches. Education in subjects like nutrition, injury prevention, and the all-important area of strength and conditioning are taken seriously in women's football now. There are national team opportunities for under 15's to senior squads.

I would love to be a younger player coming through the system now...I'm very jealous of the opportunities available!

11: Charlotte Owen

What do you do?

I'm studying PE at the University of Brighton and will look to take this into teaching or sports development. Alongside this, I play attacking midfield for Lewes FC Women, wearing the Number 10 shirt.



Which women have inspired you?

My mum is a big part of my life and support network that have given me the best platform. Female sports people such as Faye White and Serena Williams who have promoted their sport well.

What do you love about your role?

I like that I am constantly learning to better myself both with studies at uni. I enjoy my course, both the practical and the theory.

What do you like about Lewes?

I like that Lewes is very community-based and a family town. It's small enough for everyone to support every team at Lewes FC...which is nice.

What would you change about Lewes?

I live in Crawley which is much busier than Lewes. In Crawley there's always something going on, whereas Lewes is a bit more quiet and relaxed. Both have pros and cons.

How old were you when your enthusiasm for football was first taken seriously?

I've been serious about football since around the age of 7 when I signed for Chelsea F.C. Centre of Excellence. Ever since then I've trained 2/3 times a week. So, I've always been around a professional setting with competition – it's always kept me engaged.

What would you say to a young girl interested in playing football?

I would say 'everything happens for a reason' so don't give up. I have been told a few times by medical staff that I wouldn't be able to play football after multiple operations on my knee. I have worked hard to ensure I still can and not given up on my dream. There is a lot more opportunity for young girls now to get involved with football and make it a job. So, I say, 'as long as it makes you happy, DON'T GIVE UP!'

How do you think women's football has changed so far in your lifetime?

Even for me, even over the past 10/15 years I've been playing, women's football has improved and increased drastically. There are more opportunities to get involved at all levels. There are opportunities now for it to be a full-time job and it's even being shown on TV. I think England's women's team's success has helped gain more coverage for women's football in this country. And it can only get better.

12: Lisa Barsley

Karen Dobres of Lewes FC (below left) spoke to Lisa Barsley (below right) who is a local nurse and a caterer at the Dripping Pan's Chuck Wagon. Lisa is also the granddaughter of suffragette Mary Richardson.

Karen tells us that "One afternoon earlier this year I was at Lewes FC's historic ground, the Dripping Pan, dressed as a Suffragette. Wearing Edwardian clothes, brandishing a placard reading 'Deeds Not Words', and sporting a green, white and violet sash demanding Votes For Women across my front, I came over peckish.



I'd been in a Flashmob in Lewes precinct to celebrate the launch of Lewes FC's 'Unlock the Gate' campaign, and then marched with fellow 'suffragettes' down to the Pan to watch the women's match. I joined the queue at The Chuck Wagon for chips and a cup of tea – surely the food of social justice heroes? It turns out that being a suffragette is a real conversation starter and soon we were all chatting about those brave women who fought a social war.

Jason, who was frying the chips, pointed at his wife and said "Ask Lisa about suffragettes". Lisa was busy making tea, but



smiled and explained that her Grandmother was Mary Richardson – a suffragette famous for slashing the Rokeby Venus because a naked woman in an art gallery was being paid more respect than Emmeline Pankhurst at that time, and Mary wanted to hit the Establishment where it hurt. With an axe. At the time Richardson wrote, 'I have tried to destroy the picture of the most beautiful woman in mythological history as a protest against

the Government for destroying Mrs. Pankhurst, who is the most beautiful character in modern history'. Devoted to Emmeline Pankhurst, Mary took militant action out of desperation when Pankhurst was imprisoned. She accused her critics 'of artistic as well as moral and political humbug and hypocrisy.'

Richardson was also one of the first suffragettes to be force-fed under the controversial Cat and Mouse Act of 1913. Arrested nine times, and serving a total of three years in prison, after the Vote was won in 1918 Mary eventually settled in Hastings and adopted Lisa's Dad. It seemed like serendipity to meet Lisa Barsley at the launch of Unlock the Gate, and chat with her about her Suffragette connection, so naturally I asked if she'd contribute to Vote 100 Lewes." Her answers are below.

What do you do?

My normal day-time job is for the NHS. I work in the ultrasound department at Eastbourne District General Hospital as a healthcare assistant: you name it I get involved! And, as you know, I also muck in and help Jason with his catering business when he needs me - which is quite often! Last Football Season was our first one with the Chuck Wagon down at The Dripping Pan.

Which women have inspired you?

Unfortunately, I lost my dear Mum about four years ago but she inspired me greatly. A devoted mother of 6, I can't count how many grandchildren she had, but she was very hard-working woman and was always there for everybody. My Dad's adopted mother was Mary Richardson, a suffragette about whom he tells us many stories. She was force-fed through the nose and imprisoned on a number of occasions, and she also slashed the painting called The Rokeby Venus with an axe - all for the suffragette movement.

What do you love about your role?

I'm a people person with a very caring nature and like to help whenever I can.

What do like about Lewes?

I live in Polegate, but I think Lewes is a great place to visit, with its history, lots of good food and shops, and the local people are very friendly. The only downside I've experienced is when the town is busy there's not a lot of parking - but then I suppose there's always the train!!

Karen also says that "On the same day I met Lisa, Allison Ferns of BBC Radio Sussex was at the Pan. The presenter's Afternoon Show has adopted Lewes FC Women as a result of the pioneering Equality FC Campaign, and she'd come to watch the match. Next day, Alison declared on radio that the burgers she had 'at the Dripping Pan with the brioche buns were much tastier and posher than I'd ever expected to get at a football match'. We're sure Richardson would have approved of her granddaughter's contribution to a changing culture, without an axe in sight."

13 & 14: The Next Generation - The Sunrise Theatre Company

The Sunrise Theatre Company is made up of four home-educated girls between the ages of twelve and fourteen: Lois Gould, Norah Brown, Esme Needham, and Elise Lunt.



They recently performed 'How the Vote was Won,' at Fitzroy House in Lewes. The play was written in 1909, by suffragists and feminists Cicely Mary Hamilton and Christopher St John. It's both a farce and an educational play, which sees all of England's female workers returning to their nearest male relative for financial support. We asked Norah and Lois some questions about suffragists/suffragettes and their own experiences so far in life.



Norah Brown:

Why did you choose to do a play about suffragettes?

My dad suggested it and we all really wanted to do it. Dad found the play and I was very happy as it was funny as well as important and informative.

Had you heard anything about suffragettes before?

Yes. We watched the film *Mary Poppins*, and the mother of the two main characters in it is a suffragette, although I didn't really understand what it meant then. We sing the song *Sister Suffragette* from the film. I also seem to remember my parents talking about suffragettes when I was maybe eight or nine, but I didn't really listen properly. Then on my tenth birthday my mum gave me a book called 'The Daring Book for Girls' and in it was a small section on suffragettes. I read it carefully but doing the play has helped me learn even more about them.

Why should we remember them?

The suffragettes made an extremely important change in history. Without them women in England probably still wouldn't have the vote. They made big sacrifices for what they believed in. I say, 'never underestimate the hardships they went through'.

What did you learn whilst preparing for the play?

Doing the play caused me to think about women's suffrage even more. I read books from the library about feminism, winning the vote and important women in history. I found out just how many incredible women there have been and I hope to become one too. As I read somewhere, 'One person, fighting for what they believe in, can change the world.'

What was the hardest part of acting these characters? And what was the easiest?

I think it was probably having to act a man who was against women's suffrage — as I am the opposite! It's hard to wear old-fashioned mens' clothing, laboriously pin your hair up, walk around with a "moustache" and put on a male, posh, old fashioned accent. The easiest part was that I had a very clear picture of my character. I knew what he looked like, how he dressed, how he talked and hope I brought his character into my acting.

Have you found it easy to get rules changed in your life?

Not really. Both my mum and my dad are quite firm and don't let me get away with just anything. But they both try to change things for the better if they need changing and listen to my opinions.

Have you ever taken action that has led to changes in your own life?

Yes. Once I complained about hygiene at a swimming pool and my dad, who was there with me and my sister, supported me. We ended up getting free tickets because they were so sorry. I also pick up rubbish on beaches sometimes.

What was a suffragette, and what did they achieve, in your own words?

A person who fought to give women rights, and a voice, even if it meant some sacrifice. They helped women get a say in their lives, changing how the government is run and the law. They also helped women in other countries to be brave, believe in themselves and join the fight for the right to vote.

What does the word feminism mean to you?

To me it means fighting for what you believe in because you believe it will make the world a better place. It means believing that women deserve the same rights as men such as getting equal pay, better education, and equal treatment, and not just be judged on their looks. Has there ever been a good reason for this injustice? Not that I can think of!

Are you a feminist?

Yes. Definitely. Not being one would be like cutting off my nose to spite my face! After all, everyone should be allowed to make decisions — no matter what sex they are!

Can boys be feminists too?

Of course! We should all be allowed to help each other. We need to help each other! Leaving them out would be hypocritical and would only make it much harder to achieve what we want: which is making the world a better, more equal place.

Generally, which women have inspired you so far in your life?

My home circle, my mum. She has helped guide me and I love spending time with her. There are many wonderful women whom I've never met who have inspired me, but I'll just name a few. Regina Spektor is an amazing singer whose music really makes my

day. I've just discovered Emma Watson, an amazing actress who played in Harry Potter. I couldn't imagine Hermione being played by anyone else.



Lois Gould:

What was a suffragette, in your own words?

They were pioneers of political and sex equality who took incredible steps to achieve something – which really kick-started the feminist movement; and perhaps helped to plant the idea of equal rights in people's minds for years to come across the country.

What did they achieve, in your own words?

They achieved the initial building blocks for equality. Although women voting now may seem obvious, it was such a huge and monumental statement when the vote was won.

What does the word feminism mean to you?

Equality in all parts of society between sexes.

Are you a feminist?

Yes. I think many people are without realizing it. The media has done a great job of skewing the meaning of 'feminist' in people's minds, especially young people. A label that can cause them to believe that it is a movement of misandry rather than equality.

Can a boy be a feminist too?

Yes – feminism is about equality and so it's good for boys as well as girls. Anyone can be a feminist. Just like how you can still be in favour of Black Lives Matter if you are white.

Generally, which women have inspired you so far in your life?

One of my favourite hobbies is music and songwriting so it definitely inspires me to see women in the music industry writing their own meaningful music with videos that aren't centred around them wearing skimpy clothes, such as Sigrid, a Norwegian songwriter and Noname a black female rapper from Chicago. And my mum inspires me!

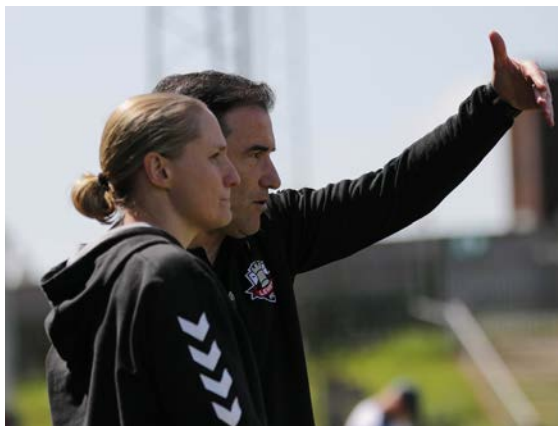
What do you like about Lewes?

I love the fact that it is not too small and not too big – and how you can find almost anything here: parks, cinema, shops, restaurants without it being too crowded. And I love the preservations of the past, such as the old bookshop and cobbled streets.

What would you change about Lewes?

Maybe to have more affordable things to do for young people.

15: Kelly Newton



Kelly Newton is the former Captain, Lewes FC Women. Kelly made over 390 appearances with Lewes FC Women's semi-pro first team and captained the side through a series of promotions and cup wins, stepping down in 2017.

What is the biggest challenge you've had to overcome to play football as a woman?

When I was 9 and first getting into football, I played for my local boys' team, 'Horsham Sparrows'. A rule was introduced that said girls couldn't play with boys - which left me with no team to play for. There were no girls' teams in my area at all. It would have been easy to give up, but with the support of my parents we found a women's side that allowed me to train with them. Being just a girl, I couldn't play in games for a few years but at least I could train regularly, and I built a 'no fear mind set' as everyone was always bigger and stronger than me. When I was younger the phrase 'girls can't play football' was widely used...and it always made me more determined to prove people wrong.

What do you do work-wise?

I manage the East Sussex warehouse for CDL Logistics. We are like a mini-Amazon, picking/packing & dispatching various goods around the world for various on-line retailers. It's a challenging job and I hate Christmas because of it!

Which women have inspired you?

From a sporting point of view Paula Radcliff and Jessica Ennis-Hill. The determination and mental strength they've shown to reach the top of their sport is astounding. From a personal point of view my Mum and Nan. Both are completely selfless and have ridiculous amounts of energy that would put any twenty-something to shame.

What do you love about your role and the roles you've had in football?

I love competition. I don't care if it is a game of Tiddlywinks or a Cup Final: I want to win. This was my full focus as a Player and Captain for Lewes Ladies and now it is my job as Manager of the Foundation squad to inspire these youngsters to find similar drive and determination.

I want my players to be self-motivated and to want to push themselves to be the best they can be. It shouldn't matter how mundane the task – each person should want to complete it to the best of their ability.

What do like about Lewes the town?

Obviously, the highlight for me is the Football Club but I love the diversity of Lewes. There really is something for everyone.

What would you change about Lewes the town?

Apart from the parking in Lewes, I think the town is fantastic.

What would you say to a young girl interested in playing football professionally? What would your advice to her be?

“GO FOR IT! You will need to make big sacrifices to become the best. Having talent will only get you so far towards becoming the best – you need to make football your obsession.”

How do you think women's football has changed?

Women's football is unrecognisable now from when I first started playing. I couldn't even find a team to play for when I was young but now girls have the opportunity to make a career from it. Standards improve year on year and the top players are proper athletes. I hope the sport continues to go from strength to strength and other women's sports start to follow suit.

Has Equality FC affected you in any way?

There is a chance that without Equality FC I would have pushed myself to play one more Season (I said that every year for the past 6 years)! Equality FC has raised the profile of our “little” club and attracted a number of very gifted players. I looked at the landscape and could see it was time to step aside and let the next generation take the club to the next level.

Fortunately for me the manager's position for the FS squad became available so I now have my next obsession to focus on.

16: Peggy Angus

Peggy Angus (1904 – 1993) was an artist and teacher who lived in Furlongs, Glynde in Sussex.

Angus was born in Chile, to a railway engineer and his wife. They moved back to Britain when she was four, settling in London. Angus trained as an artist at the Royal College of Art in the 1920s. She began as a figurative painter but soon moved to design, and her designs of tiles and wallpaper made her name. Her tiles appeared at the new Gatwick Airport, in schools and universities.



In 1933, while teaching at Eastbourne, Angus spotted a run-down cottage called Furlongs (left). She camped in a tent nearby until the farmer who owned it allowed her to rent it. Over the years, it became a hub of artistic activity, with visiting artists such as Eric Ravilious, his wife Tirzah Garwood and John Piper.

Eric Ravilious, Tea at Furlongs, 1939 via Wikipedia

Angus was Head of Art at the North London Collegiate school and encouraging people to create and love art was hugely important to her. One of the artists that she taught, Carolyn Trant, is based in Lewes and designed the frieze around the East Sussex Record Office, known as The Keep.

17: Rebecca Thompson-Agbro

Rebecca Thompson-Agbro (left) is a defender for Lewes FC Women.

What do you do?

I have a full-time office job working for Legal & General within the life insurance sector. I also currently play centre/right back of the defence for Lewes FC Women, training Tues and Weds evenings and playing every Sunday.



Which women have inspired you?

I was raised predominantly by my Mum and am super lucky to have many strong and independent women (Mum, Grandma and Aunties) in my family, who have all inspired, and continue to inspire me, in my life. Each one of them in their own way has helped me to become the woman I am today – I'm beyond grateful!

What do you love about your role?

Being able to play the sport I love for a club that provides a platform to inspire the younger generation. There is honestly nothing better. Being part of a club that allows young children to come to a game (kids always go free at Lewes FC matches) and have a positive experience when watching women's football. I'm part of a team that shows the kids that football is football, and the whole club celebrates equality within the sport.

What do like about Lewes?

Lewes has to be the most community-orientated football club I have ever come across/ been associated with, and that's what I love about Lewes FC. The club understands what makes a club: the people behind the club. The club aims to give as much as they possibly can back to the community that wholeheartedly support them. It's a refreshing thing to see in today's game. To have so many people from across the community willing to get involved is a wonderful thing to feel part of.

The club have been the first in the world to introduce pay parity, which is absolutely incredible. To know that you play for a club who want to break barriers and kick down boundaries for the 28 women's game, makes me feel very lucky and gives me confidence that the only way for this club is forward.

And Lewes the town?!

Lewes is a beautiful, relatively quiet town, not far from Brighton. It has some beautiful independent restaurants and pubs, which I often explore with my girlfriend and her family. As Lewes is middle ground for us all, it's a great place for us all to meet and catch up. I love the historic and traditional feel of Lewes – it almost feels like a home away from home.

What would you change about Lewes?

I can't say there is an awful lot, but if could change one thing right now, it would be to raise the profile of the club. I am aware that this is a gradual process and there have been so many wonderful, amazing people who have brought this club an incredibly long way. However, I know that there is still a long journey ahead and so much further we can go.

And Lewes the town?!

This is very difficult because changing Lewes would take away the very thing that makes it such a lovely town. If I had to choose one thing, maybe to move the prison to another location. Dependent on which way you enter Lewes, the prison can be the first building you see. For me, it's dark and gloomy nature is a contradiction to the town itself.

What would you say to a young girl interested in playing football professionally? What would your advice to her be?

There is nothing stopping you. I'd also say 'Talent is no substitute for hard-work'. If you are willing to work hard on and off the pitch and stay committed and determined, you will reach your goal. As females within the sport, now is the perfect time to get involved. We are being given so many more opportunities and the improved mind-set towards the sport gives young girls the platform required to reach the very top levels in the game.

How do you think women's football has changed?

Since I started playing 15 years ago, I cannot describe how much the women's game has moved forward. The game is faster, the talent is higher, there is more commercial backing and the profile has increased tremendously. I know I'm not the only one stupidly excited for what is to come. As the profile of the women's game continues to excel and the idea of it being equal to that of the men's becomes 'the norm', unbelievable things will happen.

Has Equality FC affected you in any way?

Until Lewes broke convention and introduced gender pay parity, never had I ever dreamed of being paid the same as my male counterparts. The Equality FC campaign has opened my eyes to the movement of the game: where women's football was, is currently, and where it can go. It gives me hope that the gap worldwide can and will be permanently closed.

18: Isabel Thorne



Southover Grange, Lewes, c.1910, Photochrom Company, source; Lewes History Group

Isabel Pryer (1834–1910) was born in London. She married Joseph Thorne, a tea merchant, and moved out to Shanghai. Her experiences in Shanghai led her to train as a nurse at the Female Medical College. She found the teaching there poor and was convinced also of the need for female doctors, as well as nurses.

At that point, women were not allowed to train as doctors in England. The Sussex medical campaigner Sophia Jex-Blake had discovered a dodge – training in Edinburgh – and advertised for women to join her. Thorne applied and became one of the ‘Edinburgh Seven’ who studied medicine there – getting first prize for an anatomy exam. But Edinburgh forbade the women to graduate. They and others set up the London School of Medicine for Women, and Thorne became its secretary. Although she herself would have made a first-rate doctor, she never actually qualified, but by running instead the LSMW, she ensured that generations of other women became well-qualified doctors.

In 1879, she moved to Southover Grange in Lewes (see above). Selling it in 1901, she nevertheless carried on links with Lewes – her daughter Isabel married Frank Verrall (of the Southover brewing family) and Thorne’s own ashes were scatted in St John’s Southover.

19: Natasha Wells



Tash ‘The Terminator’ Wells is a defender, Lewes FC Women.

What do you do (work-wise)?

I’m a PE teacher at a local Secondary school. Ages 11-16 (for my sins)! Jokes aside, I thoroughly enjoy my job.

Which women have inspired you?

This is going to be VERY cheesy, but I have never met anyone stronger than my Mum.

I could reel off many inspirational women over the years, but she is the one I always want to make proud.

What do you love about your roles, in your day job and in football?

Job-wise, it’s sharing my passion for sport and keeping active. I have always been enthusiastic about inspiring young people into sport. In football, it’s developing those close-knit relationships with others around you: the coaches, the players and the supporters. When you get to do that it motivates you to want to perform week in, week out.

Nowadays I like to think that I, and others, can inspire young girls to play or be involved in sport. Personally, I also think that being part of a team is a really important aspect of life.

What do like about Lewes (the town)?

I find it a quirky little town! There are some cute shops and I regularly visit for a coffee and brunch as I live not far from it.

What would you change about Lewes (the town)?

I’m not sure I would change anything to be honest. It has its own ‘personality’ and I like that. I would say I’m pretty quirky and enjoy being so... so I think I fit right in!

What’s the biggest challenge you’ve had to overcome to play football as a woman?

I don’t really think I have. I have always been able to play when I’ve wanted to and at a level I’m happy with. I guess the only thing was in primary school when a couple of us girls were clearly better than the boys but weren’t ever picked for the team – THEIR LOSS!

What would you say to a young girl interested in playing football professionally? What would your advice to her be?

Make sure you enjoy where you play, there is always a noticeable difference in players that enjoy the club they play for and the players they play with. It's great to have ambition, which should be fuelled with hard work and commitment. Certainly, don't let set-backs hold you back, whether that be injury or not being selected in the team. Having a positive mental attitude, and determination to show your resilience...both of these go a long way.

How do you think women's football has changed?

Since I started, absolutely massively!!! I don't think any players in England were professional then - you had to go to America for that. The media coverage promoting women's football has improved drastically. TV coverage has really helped, and the increased visibility of female pundits such as Alex Scott.

The success of the Women's National Team in the World Cup, and more recently the U21s, shows that the standard has improved and the women's game is moving in the right direction. I'm not sure anyone would have heard of Lewes FC Women 10 years ago, but now, with Equality FC, the team and the club have attracted a large amount of media interest.

Has Equality FC affected you in any way?

In terms of playing for Lewes, yes. The club look to promote as 'one club' with the same opportunities provided to both the men and women. The volunteers within the club are absolutely incredible. It just wouldn't be the same without them, and we wouldn't have the opportunities we do now if it wasn't for them. I really do hope they know how much they are ALL appreciated.

20: Viscountess Wolseley



Frances Wolseley (1872-1936) was the daughter of a field marshal. She grew up in Ireland and then Glynde in East Sussex, where her family moved in 1899 to Home Farm, Glynde Place, and then Old Farm House (Trevor House).

Since women couldn't study at the Royal Horticultural Society, she set up her own horticultural college, with a couple of students and another garden teacher. She rented Ragged Lands, Glynde, in 1906 and built a house to accommodate students, servants and a lecture room. Her College for Lady Gardeners was just that - ladies of the wealthier sort.

The college was quite military in its discipline. Uniforms were boots, leggings, skirt, shirt, tie, and a felt hat. Medals were dished out. Students were allowed a day off a week, and a month off a year.

Wolseley moved to Ardingly in 1925, building Culpeper's to live in. Her ashes were buried in Beddingham churchyard.

Photo: Gardening for Women, Frances Wolseley, 1908

21: Eleanor Farjeon

The children's author Eleanor Farjeon (1881–1965) lived at The Hammonds, Laughton. Farjeon wrote the words to the hymn *Morning has Broken*, as well as many children's books, other novels, plays, poems, songs...and there's still a children's book award named after her.

One of her books is 'Elsie Piddock Skips in her Sleep', inspired by the children who used to skip around Laughton, and by the beautiful downland scenery.

In the story Elsie Piddock's skipping prowess has reached the ears of the fairies (this was the 1930s!), and they give her masterclasses on Mount Caburn. But years later, a greedy Lord buys Mount Caburn and threatens to build factories on its land, and it's up to Elsie Piddock to save the skipping ground.

Elsie came from a collection called *Martin Pippin and the Daisy Field*. Martin's first escapade was *Martin Pippin in the Apple Orchard*, based on old Sussex folk songs and practices.

I've not tried buying any of these books, but I'm sure that they can be bought in Bags of Books, in Cliffe.

Image from Wikipedia



22: Eve Garnett



Eve Garnett lived in the steeply sloping Keere Street that runs down from Lewes High Street to Southover, giving glimpses of the South Downs on the way. If you are careful not to miss your footing on the cobbles, you can read the plaque (above) which commemorates her life and work. Eve Cynthia Ruth Garnett was born in Worcestershire in 1900.

She trained to be an artist in London and later moved to Sussex and by 1939 was living with her parents in Chailey. In the late 1920s, Eve was commissioned to illustrate a book about London children. The experience opened her eyes to the appalling conditions that affected the poorest families in the city. In response, she wrote and illustrated her own book *The Family from One End Street*, which was striking for its depiction of the lives of working-class children. Turned down by several publishers, her book eventually became a recognised classic. It was serialised on the radio and received the Library Association Carnegie Medal and is still in print today.

23: Shannon Moloney

Shannon Moloney is Midfielder for Lewes FC Women.

What do you do work-wise?

I am programme manager in sport for Plumpton College. I look after the sports programme and my lovely 16–19 year-old students.

Which women have inspired you?

Although she is no longer here, it would have to be my Mum. She was the most hard-working, caring Mum and always did her best for us. Growing up in London in a single parent family, Mum always ensured that we had all she could provide. She worked so hard but also had amazing humour. She was so supportive of my football and each of my career choices.



What do you love about your role and the roles you've had (in football)?

My job allows me to support students in their academic studies and to help develop their social and employability skills. I find it so rewarding watching my students achieve, especially those that have “barriers” that have been put in place. I love to watch them grow and develop into successful young adults.

As I have got older and more experienced, I like to emphasise the word “team.” To me a team is like a small family, with whom you celebrate triumphs, but also come together when things aren’t going so well. I try to keep a level and impartial head and to remain positive and take positives out of a situation.

What do like about Lewes (the town)?

I love the community feel around Lewes, especially with regard to football. Each shop and pub supports our women’s team. I also notice the amount of independent businesses, which I am a huge fan of and often support.

What would you change about Lewes (the town)?

That’s a hard one, haha! Coming from London, Lewes is very quiet, but I guess that is a good thing too. So maybe... a bit more hustle and bustle?

What would you say to a girl interested in playing football professionally? What would your advice to her be?

I would say to any young player that she needs to work hard and have a positive attitude at all times.

at all times. A particularly favourite quote of mine is “Hard work beats talent, when talent doesn’t work hard” and that is something that has always stuck with me. It is known that injury can cause players to miss long periods of seasons, so listening to your body and taking advice of medical professionals is also important.

How do you think women’s football has changed?

Women’s football has changed massively and we have some amazing role models such as Lucy Bronze, Fran Kirby and Steph Houghton. I think that the profile of women’s football has changed, and the male football clubs associated with the female teams are finally helping to support the progression and development of the women’s game. Which is exactly how it should be.

I feel that the women’s game is becoming more accessible (in terms of TV rights) and that the prices for the women’s game are affordable so families can attend. It is amazing to see the likes of Alex Scott and Sue Smith becoming familiar faces on our TV screens in terms of their punditry, which has likewise progressed a long way for women in sport in the past years. I hope to see more female faces as ‘regulars’ on my TV screen in the future.

Has Equality FC affected you in any way?

Being part of the only club in the world that pays the men and women the same is empowering and sets precedence for other clubs globally. To be a part of a club where the men and women share the same training facilities and the same wage shows that Lewes FC is paving the way for future clubs. I often ask myself why – not just in football – women are still treated differently to men? In terms of “affecting me” it has made me more determined to inform everyone I know about how fantastic Lewes are at promoting equality in football and setting that precedent for other clubs and establishments to follow suite.

What is the biggest challenge you’ve had to overcome, as a woman, to play football?

When I was younger there were no girls teams, so I often played in boys’ teams until age 11 when I joined Arsenal Centre of Excellence.

To date, I have encountered various remarks regarding the women’s game, such as “Shouldn’t you be in the kitchen?” My reply is often “Yeah – after training”.

Physically women are built differently to men. But this doesn’t mean we do not work just as hard to play the beautiful game.

It’s the ignorance amongst people which is frustrating! However, advancements in female media coverage, female participation on Sky Sports and other well-known football programmes, will hopefully start to end this ignorance around women in football.

24: Violet Gordon Woodhouse

Violet Gordon Woodhouse (1872–1951) was part of the Gwynne family of Folkington Manor. Her brothers were mayor and MP for Eastbourne and her niece was Elizabeth David. Violet was a musical prodigy. After private piano studies, she went to the Royal Academy of Music, but her father balked at her becoming a professional musician.

So Violet followed the usual practice for a society lady, was presented, and got engaged – to Viscount Gage of Firlie Place. This engagement lasted only briefly, instead she married, in 1895, a friend of her brother's, one John Gordon Woodhouse.



Around this time, she met Arnold Dolmetsch and began to explore early music and keyboard instruments. She pioneered the British revival of the harpsichord, clavichord, virginals and spinet, being the first person to record and broadcast them in the British Isles, and she helped to put composers like Byrd and Scarlatti back on the map. you can hear her recordings on the internet – and they are really worth a listen. Delius wrote his Dance for Harpsichord for her.

As you might expect from her background and artistic temperament, Violet found being 'Woodhouse' too ordinary, and persuaded her husband to change his – their – name to 'Gordon-Woodhouse'. In 1899, William Barrington came to stay, and very quickly fell in love with her. She seems to have had this effect on people (Radclyffe Hall dedicated a book of poems to her). He was joined a few years later by the barrister Max Labouchere and Dennis Tollemache.

By this time, the group were living in Southover Grange whither the Woodhouse-Gordons had moved from Wootton Manor, Folkington. In 1907, they moved to Stratford-upon-Avon. The Great War broke up the household; all four men served, and Max was killed. After the War, they regrouped. This was the brief period when Violet played and recorded publicly – possibly because Gordon's money was running out, and she inherited nothing from her father. In 1926, Gordon inherited a healthy fortune, and Violet gave up playing in public so that she could concentrate on playing in the private, and more intimate, setting of Nether Lypiatt Manor, which Gordon bought with his inheritance.

Although this was a more 'authentic' approach to composers such as Byrd and Scarlatti, it meant that Violet's name receded from public memory, to be overtaken by Wanda Landowska. There's a nice article about her by her great-niece, Jessica Douglas-Home.

Photo: Violet Gordon Woodhouse c. 1900, Wikipedia Commons

25: Nina Wilson

Nina Wilson, along with Faye Baker, is Goalkeeper for Lewes FC Women.

What do you do (work-wise)?

I had a basic job in retail but recently quitted this to focus on football! Currently I'm setting up my own business doing digital illustration and graphic design – my passion away from football.

Which women have inspired you?

Growing up, I always followed the England women's team as much as I could, especially the goalkeepers, like Rachel Brown and Sio Chamberlain. I'd just watch in awe thinking I could be like them one day. I'm also going to have to flatter Faye's ego a bit! She was very important to me as a young keeper at Brighton, and I really looked up to her attitude. It was thanks to her support that I first thought 'I could really make something of myself here'.



What do you love about your role and the roles you've had (in football)?

The main thing for me is inspiring the younger girls. When I get messages online saying I inspire them, or they come to speak to me after a game, that's what it's all about. I do a bit of coaching too, which is mixed boys and girls, and all the other coaches are men. The best feeling is getting a few girls in my group and seeing their eyes light up when they see that their coach is a girl like them.

To show them at a young age that they are represented in football is so important. It's something I never really got growing up – I didn't really have access to those female role models. So it means so much to me to be able to be a role model now.

What do like about Lewes (the town)?

I like the relaxed atmosphere of the town – it's very friendly and has a great sense of community. I live in Brighton where most of the areas are gentrified, so I love walking around the Lewes streets which have kept a more traditional feel.

What would you change about Lewes (the town)?

Probably just better transport. I get the train from Brighton a lot, which is okay as usually I am just going to the training ground (right next to the station!). But further than that I'd like to get around the town a bit more easily.

What would you say to a girl interested in playing football professionally? What would your advice to her be?

Don't listen to anyone who tells you "you can't". My whole life I've been laughed off and told to follow a more 'suitable' career. Even now I still get that, and people who say I'm not good enough.

But in a way you need to be stubborn – I love proving people wrong and raising eyebrows. I've got to a point now where I just have to say this is my dream and I've got to make it happen somehow, no matter what. It's definitely a risk but when it starts paying off you realise nothing can stop you. It's also definitely true that it doesn't matter if you aren't the most naturally talented. Attitude & putting in the extra work gets you so much further.

How do you think women's football has changed?

I honestly think the standard is improving week by week. You can see that female footballers are real athletes now – strong and powerful. Enhancing the full-time professional side of the game has enabled players to become more well-rounded both technically and physically. I also think if you look at other factors such as media coverage, the women's game is starting to get the respect it deserves. It's an exciting time for the game and I can't wait to see its continued growth...and hopefully be part of it.

Has Equality FC affected you in any way?

Hell yeah! It makes me so proud to call Lewes my club. I find it inspiring that female footballers are finally starting to be valued the way we should be. It's something I've always said should be happening and I hope a lot of other clubs are taking note that it's certainly not impossible.

What is the biggest challenge you've had to overcome, as a woman, to play football?

Probably the lack of opportunities for me to actually play. There were no girls' teams at all in my area until I was around 9 or 10. So I had to play for a boys' team, and this was only allowed until a certain age. At school, too, there was no girls' team at all until the end of primary school. I remember once trying to put myself up for the boy's team – everyone laughed me away. This opportunity dearth has improved but I do still think it's an ongoing issue. Even a few years ago I was almost forced to give up playing. The under 18 league I was meant to be joining folded as there weren't enough teams to join. I wasn't old enough to join the adult league so at 15 I was left with no team at all! As a last resort I applied to Brighton's Centre of Excellence and was very lucky that they accepted me. But I have to think how many girls not quite at that level yet would have to stop playing in that position, simply because there is nowhere for them to go.

26 to 28: The First Three Women Mayors



Beatrice Temple, Mayor of Lewes, 1972-73 (left); Dorothy Violet Reed, JP, Mayor of Lewes 1976-77 (right). Photos © Edward Reeves Photography, research by Graham Mayhew.

All three of the town's first female mayors were notable for their commitment to the community and their emphasis on education and social work. The first woman mayor, Anne Dumbrell (1894-1965) was born in Lewes and was the third of ten children. When she was just thirteen, Anne began to teach at South Malling school, where the headmistress was the pioneering Kate Fowler Tutt. Anne pursued a career in teaching and in 1946, was elected as a councillor for the Ratepayers Association, and later for the Conservatives, her chief interest being education. Following her retirement, Anne achieved a hat-trick of firsts. She was the first woman deputy mayor in 1960, the first female mayor in 1963 and the first person to appoint a Labour councillor as their deputy.

Despite Anne's breakthrough, it was nearly a decade before another woman became mayor, when Beatrice Temple (1907-1982) was elected in 1972-3. A remarkable woman from a remarkable background, Beatrice was born in India, the grand-daughter of the Archbishop of Canterbury. During the Second World War, Beatrice served as Lt.-Col. Chief Commander of the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service, 'responsible for making preparations for an organised resistance in the event of a German occupation'. During peace-time, Beatrice's main interest as a Conservative councillor was social work, especially the care of the elderly and disabled.

The first Labour woman to be mayor was Dorothy Reed (1903-1977). Born in Lewes, Dorothy was the daughter of a local building worker. She differed from her more conservative family, turning instead to the Labour movement, and organising parcels for Republican troops during the Spanish Civil War. Dorothy became mayor in 1976, but sadly died the next year. Today, banners in Lewes Town Hall show the portraits of these three pioneering women appear alongside those of Lewes's other female mayors.

26 to 37: Lewes's Women Mayors

Lewes has had twelve women mayors. That sounds quite impressive – until you consider the length of the town's history.

Back in the first Elizabethan era, Lewes's chief official was known as a 'constable' rather than a mayor. The role continued through to Victorian times and many prominent Lewes families, such as the Verralls and the Crosskeys, served in the post. Some constables later became mayors, including Wynne Baxter, who became the town's first mayor when Lewes was established as a borough council in 1881.

Both constables and mayors were, of course, all men. It was not legal for a woman to be a borough councillor until 1907, and it was not until 1920 that Lewes elected its first woman councillor, Mrs Hannah Wood, who was the wife of the county surveyor. Even then, more than forty years would pass before a woman would become mayor, when Anne Dumbrell was elected in 1963.

Overall, Lewes has had twelve female mayors over the 112 years since women were allowed to stand. In other words, women have held this distinguished role for about 10% of the town's municipal history. Only one female mayor, Maureen Messer, was appointed for more than a single term. In contrast, Lt.-Col. Charles Crisp was elected mayor of Lewes Borough Council eleven times between 1923 and 1949. Lewes's women mayors are listed below along with their term of appointment.



Women mayors of Lewes

Anne Dumbrell 1963-64

Beatrice Temple 1972-73

Dorothy V Reed, JP 1976-77

Joanna Hallett, JP 1986-87

Christine Tester 1987-88

Ann De Vecchi Hopper, BA 1992-93

Maureen Messer 1995-96 & 1997-98

Barbara Riddihough, MA 2002-03

Amanda Dean 2009-10

Ruth O'Keefe 2013-14

Susan Murray 2015-16

Janet Baah 2018-19

Women are still under-represented throughout the democratic system. Following local elections in 2015, women held 40% of seats on Lewes Town Council, 32% on Lewes District Council, 16% on East Sussex County Council. Currently, women make up 32% of the members in the House of Commons and 26% in the House of Lords. Overall, the UK ranks 41st in terms of representation of women in the parliamentary system.

Photo: Banner at Lewes Town Hall, © Edward Reeves Photography

38: Sonya Baksi



Peace Conference, The Hague, The Netherlands, 1915, photo: LSE Flickr, Wikipedia

Local resident, Sonya Baksi, spent 40 years in the NHS working for children. She has a wide variety of other interests including researching the 1915 Women's Peace Conference in The Hague (above), an event which involved many prominent suffrage campaigners. We are grateful to Lewes News, Jan Newbury and Sonya Baksi for allowing us to reproduce the following article which first appeared in the Spring 2020 issue of Lewes News.

LEWES LIFE – SONYA BAKSI

Previous generations of Sonya Baksi's (née Left) family had come to London from Eastern Europe. Sensing the impending outbreak of the Second World War, her parents moved to Princes Risborough where Sonya was born in 1940, the second of three children. In May 1945 they returned to the capital. After attending local primary school, Sonya gained a scholarship to go to the North London Collegiate School (a direct grant grammar school) which she found stimulating and a strong influence. Eleanor Bron was class prefect when Esther Rantzen was class monitor alongside Sonya.

Sonya's medical father had in the 1930s worked on the plan for a National Health Service. He encouraged both Sonya and her brother to become doctors - which they both did. Both trained in London, then Sonya embraced paediatrics. After a further year studying public health, Sonya ran her first clinic in Camden Town. This was the 1960s when the migrant populations remained largely separate in their own groups. With a full team of health visitors, social workers and clinic nurses, the community's needs were investigated and addressed. Sonya also undertook health education teaching primary schoolchildren, teenagers and holding parents' evenings. This was "a lovely job" but somehow she found time to work on BBC school programmes and to write her first two books.

Sonya and Jayanta (Jak) Baksi had met as sixth-formers. He was a student from India. They married as Sonya qualified. During her time at the clinic they had two children - a daughter and a son. Jak was amongst the first community relations officers and worked in Hackney for seven years against overt racism, during the IRA London bombings and other multiple challenges.

Deciding to leave the city, he applied for jobs and in 1974 took up a post in community development with East Sussex County Council.



Loath to move away whilst her beloved grandfather was still alive, Sonya agreed to give it a try for five years: 45 years later she is still here! The family moved to Kingston, near Lewes, when the children were aged five and two and sadly experienced personal racism, so for four years Sonya helped as a volunteer in their infant class to keep an eye on her children. By now she was working part time at clinics covering the towns of Seaford and Uckfield, along with their local villages. The nurses' extensive local knowledge of the families was invaluable. Life for families in Sussex was so less stressful than in inner London. Requests for re-housing were rebuffed in London but here, in the 1970s, Sonya was readily able to get families re-housed. Unfortunately this is no longer the case.

1975 found Sonya running her first Lewes clinic in Castlegate which uniquely offered open access. As the doctor in the community health team, she worked for the Uckfield/Seaford patch until 1990. After their children had grown up, Sonya and Jak moved to St Swithuns Terrace - close to the station, making commuting easier. She then joined the Department of Health on secondment, contributing her clinical experience to guidance for the Children Act. She also took part in the first inspection of mothers and babies in prison whose inhumane treatment brought her to tears.

During that year she also travelled the country, looking at services for children. She was shocked to find

Manchester children not properly clothed or shod but is angry that the numbers of children growing up in poverty today is even greater. On her return to local full-time work, she transferred to Brighton where she says she carried out her best work in the ten years prior to retirement in 2000. She served on national committees and lectured all over the country.

Working in various clinics and as school doctor, Sonya had witnessed tremendous social changes. In 2006 she published a book entitled "Yes, Health Minister" on her 40 years inside the NHS working for children. Sonya says she had "a very busy and committed working life" but this has not changed greatly in retirement! She returned to university to study for a degree in Cultural Studies at Sussex, exploring many areas of interest, particularly the 1915 Women's Peace Conference at The Hague and the women's attempt to mediate an early end to the First World War.

Her husband, Jak, has given many fund-raising concerts in Lewes, Brighton, London, singing German and Russian songs, supported by Sonya reading translations.

Nowadays the couple do joint presentations on cultural subjects to the U3A, Riverside Club and other groups. Sonya works with Lewes for a Real Living Wage, the Patients' Participation Group, Lewes Stop Toxic Trade Deals, Lewes Organisation in Support of Refugees and Asylum Seekers. Since hearing the testimony of Hiroshima survivors in 1955, Sonya and Jak went on the first Aldermaston March and she has never ceased campaigning for an end to nuclear weapons.

Sonya feels lucky to have kept up with school and London friends, as well as making many new friends here. She and Jak have regularly visited family members in India and are most happy to have both their adult children living nearby.

Jan Newbury

39: The anchoress of St Anne's



Modern depiction of the anchoress at St Anne's

St Anne's Church in Lewes was once home to a devoted anchoress who withdrew from society to live a life of religious contemplation. We do not know her name, but we do know that she lived during the thirteenth century because she was remembered in the will of Saint Richard (1197- 1253). At the time, Richard was bishop of Chichester and he was later to become the patron saint of Sussex. His legacy included five shillings to 'the female recluse of the Blessed Mary of Westhoute.' – the latter being the name of the nearby parish.

The anchoress lived in a simple cell built into the walls of the church, known as an anchorhold. She would have been 'immured' or walled inside her new room in a ceremony possibly overseen by the bishop himself. Her cell had a window (called a 'squinch') which allowed her to take part in religious services inside the church. The cell looks quite small and constricting, but the anchoress would have had access to hatch for receiving food, and a small garden may have been attached to her cell. At the end of her life, she was buried underneath the small enclosure where she had spent so many days in prayer.

Being an anchoress (or anchorite if male) was widely practised across Europe in the medieval era. This path was more common for women than men during the 12th to 16th centuries. It was a life of confinement, chastity and poverty. Anchoresses depended on outside donations and were expected to sell their worldly goods before entering their vocation.

While such people lived a solitary life, they were not necessarily completely isolated. They could be important figures in the community setting 'an example of light for everyone' by living a holy life and supporting people through their advice and prayers.

Not all anchorites were so accommodating, however. The Sussex historian, Louis Salzman (1878-1971), wrote about a 'litigious' anchorite who lived in Steyning in the 13th century. Others may have been leaving behind a less godly past. An ancient arch in the wall of St John sub Castro Church in Lewes commemorates the life of Magnus, a Danish warrior prince, who turned his back on the world to become an anchorite in a cell built into the previous Anglo-Saxon church.

In the Middle Ages, the presence of an anchoress could bring a parish religious prestige and income from tourism. This was particularly true of Britain's most famous anchoress Julian of Norwich (c.1342–1416). To this day a gift shop operates in the church where she lived. 'Mother Julian' was part of the community, and those with troubles could come to her for advice, but her continuing fame comes in large part from her writings. These include *Revelations of Divine Love*, which recorded her religious visions. This work also happens to be the earliest surviving book in English to be written by a woman.

Read more

- Michelle M. Sauer, 'Extra-Temporal Place Attachment and Adaptive Reuse: The Afterlives of Medieval English Anchorholds' in: *Studies in Medievalism XXV: Medievalism and Modernity*, Karl Fugelso, Joshua Davies, Sarah Salih (eds) (Boydell & Brewer, D. S. Brewer, 2016).
- Louis F Salzman, 'A litigious anchorite Miliana of Steyning, c. 1263–88.' *Sussex Notes Queries* 2, 1928, Vol 2.
- <https://leweshistory.org.uk/projects/the-lewes-street-stories-initiative/lewes-street-stories-abinger-place/development-of-abinger-place-in-the-19th-century/>

40: Margaret ‘Greta’ Allen

During the Edwardian era, Lewes had its very own suffragette who vigorously campaigned for women’s right to vote.

Margaret ‘Greta’ Allen was born in India in 1869 to Irish parents. She grew up to become a nurse and an authority on public health. She lectured in Ireland and in England from the early 1890s, and later wrote a book for health visitors. She was in the Lewes area by 1908.

Allen. Helen	Westminster	14/2/08	161.505
			60
Allen. Margaret	Bow St.	24/11/10	200.655
			4
Allen. Mary S.	Bow St.	25/2/09	176.114
	"	12/7/09	180.733
	Bristol	13/11/09	185.723
			1

By 1910, Greta was speaking at meetings of Brighton and Hove Women’s Social and Political Union (WSPU). She was arrested with the WSPU’s treasurer, Beatrice Sanders, outside Nos.10 and 11 Downing Street in November that year (see above).

Greta’s one-month prison sentence for wilful damage qualified her, in January 1912, to wear prison uniform to the annual Fancy Dress Ball held by the Mayor of Lewes. It also led to her name appearing on the Suffragette Roll of Honour. In July 1913, she spoke at the British Medical Association Conference on crime and punishment in Brighton, describing the prison conditions endured by suffragettes.

Greta took over as paid organiser for the Brighton WSPU after the death of campaigner Mary Clarke on Christmas Day 1910. At a meeting at the YMCA hall on Brighton’s Steine in April 1911, she advocated the WSPU’s policy of evading the Government’s 1911 Census as the only dignified attitude for women who, without the vote, were classed with lunatics and imbeciles. Beyond Brighton, she addressed meetings across the south from Plymouth to Hastings, and in September 1912 spoke at Phoenix Park, Dublin with the WSPU’s ‘General’ Flora Drummond.

In June 1913, Greta required police rescue when her attempt to rally local support for Beatrice Sanders, who was then briefly imprisoned in Lewes, met with dangerously aggressive opposition. Later that summer, Greta was the WSPU ‘English Riviera organiser’, sending her reports to the WSPU newspaper Suffragette from Torquay. When she resigned as WSPU organiser in Brighton at the end of 1913, it was to resume work as a health lecturer in Sussex until at least 1916. However, despite our best efforts we don’t know what happened to this remarkable woman after that.

This article draws on the article by Frances Stenlake, ‘The Lady Fired Splendidly: Lewes and the Women’s Suffrage Campaign’, *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, 152 (2014), and first appeared at <https://www.mappingwomenssuffrage.org.uk>

Image Margaret Allen’s sentencing (top right) at Bow St, 24 November 1910, source: National Archives, ref HO 45/24655.

41: Eva Stewart-Jones

Greta Allen, no. 40 in our series, was a militant suffragette who was willing to break the law to get the vote. However, there was a much larger group of suffragist supporters who were entirely lawabiding.

One such example is Eva 'Joan' Stewart-Jones (1884-1942). Eva was a well-connected, respectable woman who became the first president of the Lewes Women's Suffrage Society.



Eva Stewart-Jones with her children at Southover Grange in 1916, Photo: http://www.clementjones.com/wp01/wp01_164.html

In 1908, Eva married a barrister, Thorold Stewart-Jones. The couple moved from London to set up home at Southover Grange in the town centre.

In contrast to other parts of Sussex, efforts to stir up interest in the suffrage campaign in Lewes did not really get going until 1908, when speakers such as Brighton activist, Flora de Gaudrion Merrifield, began to visit the town. Then, in the summer of 1910, Jessie Every, wife of local businessmen John Every, held a garden meeting for suffrage sympathisers,



at their home 'The Croft' – a wonderfully ornate Victorian building which still stands today (left).

Following the meeting, the Lewes Women's Suffrage Society was set up with Eva as president, supported by a doctor's wife, Maud Vallance, as secretary. While Eva was the figurehead, Mrs Vallance may well have done most of the groundwork for the Society's meetings in Lewes, some of which were chaired by the local mayor.

Eva was also active in the temperance movement, which campaigned against alcohol abuse, motivated, in part, by the desire to improve the welfare of women and children. In 1911, Eva and campaigners from Worthing sought to persuade the constituency's new MP, William Campion, to support women's right to vote. They were unsuccessful, and it was another seven years before Lloyd George's government passed legislation to allow women over 30 to vote.

The outbreak of the First World War in 1914 had a profound impact across society and few were left untouched by its devastation. Eva's husband Thorold had enlisted in the 5th Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment and in 1915 he was killed on the Western Front. When the news of his death came through, Eva was the mother of four children and pregnant with a fifth child. With her mother-in-law, she ensured that her husband was commemorated on a memorial to the fallen outside Southover Church and on the Lewes war memorial.

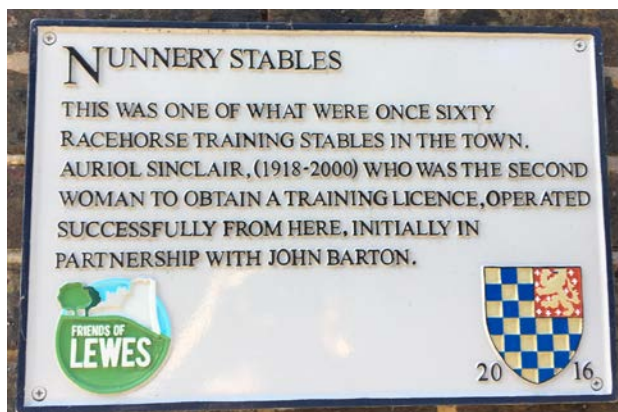
From 1866 to 1928, the fight for women's right to vote took over 60 years to achieve its aims in full. It was the efforts of many thousands of women, from well-known figures such as Millicent Garrett Fawcett, to the obscure ones like Eva Stewart-Jones, that played a part in the eventual victory.

This article draws on Frances Stenlake, 'The Lady Fired Splendidly: Lewes and the Women's Suffrage Campaign', *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, 152 (2014), pp.139-152 and Eva Stewart-Jones's entry at <https://www.mappingwomensuffrage.org.uk>

42: Auriol Sinclair

Horeseracing was once big business in Lewes, attracting crowds of thousands of people.

Racing began in 1727 and by the mid-19th century, it was a highly fashionable event. The 'Race Ball' in particular was a magnet for the local aristocracy. The course closed in 1964 but you can still walk alongside the track today, by heading up to the downs above the Nevill estate.



Many local businesses were associated with the course, including the stables run by Auriol Sinclair and John Barton. Auriol was only the second woman in the UK to obtain a training licence and the first to train a hundred winners. Born in the year that women were first allowed to the vote, she was described as “a brave woman, in sole control of her life.” Although she was a successful trainer, things did not always go smoothly for her. In 1971, the Jockey Club fined her £100 under its new anti-doping policy. She denied the doping charge saying that she’d given her horse the medicine in good faith.

Auriol has been described as “The first pioneer of the turf, the first true horsewoman... who achieved bloodhorse literacy in her own right”. As such, she paved the way for future trainers such as the highly regarded Jenny Pitman OBE – the first woman to train a Grand National winner.

In much the same way that the Football Association stifled women’s football by banning it between 1921 and 1971, Jockey Club regulations kept women out of racing. Early pioneers such as Helen Johnson Houghton had to train horses under a licence held by a man. The Jockey Club finally recognised women trainers in 1966, but only after being taken to court by the trainer and feminist, Florence Nagle, dubbed “The Mrs Pankhurst” of racing. Nagle won her case based on the 1919 Sex Disqualification Act which removed barriers to women entering the professions.

Today, horse-racing is one of the few sports where women compete directly against men. However, the Jockey Club did not allow women to ride until 1972. That year, Meriel Tufnell became the first woman to ride a winning horse on what was also her first professional outing.

Although there are now several top women jockeys, considerable inequality remains. Research has shown that women jockeys' results are just as good as men's, but that they only get 1% of the rides at the top level and miss out on the major prize money.

Read more

- <https://www.lewesracecoursehistory.co.uk/>
- https://community.betfair.com/horse_racing/go/thread/view/94102/29525801/obituary-helenjohnson-houghton#flvWelcomeHeader
- <https://www.thefreelibrary.com/Tributes+at+funeral+for+pioneer+Sinclair.-a060967512>
- <https://turfcallmorningline.blogspot.com/2011/12/c4-morning-line-boxing-day-december.html>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2018/jan/30/female-jockeys-good-men-fewer-top-ridesreport>

43: Elizabeth Ollive

Lewes is well-known for its connection to the radical thinker Thomas Paine who lived here between 1768 and 1774. The town advertises its links to Paine through statues, plaques, a printing press and even a pub named after one of his major works, the 'Rights of Man'.

However, there is nothing in the way of public monument to tell you about one of the more important reasons he stayed in the town – his wife Elizabeth Paine (c.1750–1808, née Ollive). Elizabeth was the 'pretty and intelligent' daughter of Samuel Ollive, a tobacconist who ran Bull House in Lewes High Street (right).



When Tom Paine arrived in Lewes he was working as an excise officer. This was a skilled role that involved calculating and collecting duties on alcohol, tea, coffee and other goods. However, the job was so poorly paid that it was hard for excise men to support a family. The low wages also meant the officers were susceptible to bribes. It was in these rather straightened circumstances that Paine came to stay with Samuel Ollive and his family at Bull House. As well as running a business, Samuel played a prominent role in civic life as a High Constable and electoral returning officer. As a result, he was able to provide Paine with useful contacts in the town. Local author, Paul Myles, has described how Paine threw himself into life in Lewes and used his time to campaign for reform of the excise service.

A year after Paine's arrival, Samuel Ollive died, leaving the running of Bull House to his widow, Esther, and daughter Elizabeth. The two women invited Paine to join them in the business. Paine accepted and two years later, in 1771, he married the much younger Elizabeth at St Michael's Church. However, for reasons that are not clear, the couple soon became estranged. Some suggest that Paine was away for long spells for work, or that he spent too much time on politics, debating at the Headstrong Club in the White Hart. Still others say that there were religious differences, or that the marriage was unconsummated. In addition, Paine's first wife had died in childbirth, which, together with his relatively insecure financial position, may have made him hesitant about starting another family.

Whatever the reason, with both the tobacconist's business and the marriage failing, Paine and Elizabeth agreed to separate in 1774. The settlement allowed Elizabeth to retain the assets she had inherited from her father and to live as freely as if she were an unmarried woman. Elizabeth also kept some furnishings from their house, although she had to give Paine the significant sum of £45.

This was well over his annual salary and would be worth £6500 in today's money. Yet the settlement could be seen as relatively fair for the time, given that a married woman did not have a separate legal identity from her husband and could not own or inherit property in her own right – a situation that did not change until the Married Woman's Property Acts of 1870 and 1882.

Although Elizabeth was now free to live her own life, her reputation had been damaged by the separation and by her association with the increasingly controversial Paine. She left Lewes to live with her half-brother in Cranbrook, Kent. However, she avoided criticising her former husband. Similarly, Paine is said to have spoken of his wife “tenderly and respectfully”. Nevertheless, Elizabeth struggled to come out of Paine's shadow both in life and in death. The words of her obituary were probably crafted by her half-brother, Thomas, who used the occasion to damn Paine, while praising his sister, remarking of her that “she lived much respected, and died sincerely lamented – a firm Believer in Christ and the Truths of the Christian Religion.”

In an interesting coda to the story, Paine played a part in the development of Mary Wollstonecraft's ‘proto feminist’ thinking. In 1790, Mary wrote an attack on hereditary privilege in *A Vindication of the Rights of Men*. This was followed in 1791 by Paine's *Rights of Man*, which proposed that human rights are inherent in nature. Mary extended the idea to include women in *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792) – a book which was to become a foundational document of feminist thought.

This article draws on:

- Paul Myles, *The Rise of Thomas Paine and The Case of the Officers of Excise* (Lewes: Thomas Paine Society, 2018)
<https://www.kobo.com/gb/en/ebook/the-rise-of-thomas-paine>;
- Paul Myles, Deborah Gage & Colin Brent, *Thomas Paine in Lewes 1768-1774 A Prelude to American Independence Second Edition* (2020), p.55
<https://www.kobo.com/gb/en/ebook/thomas-paine-inlewes-1768-1774-second-edition-2020>
- Judith Brent and Paul Myles, *Transcription of the separation of Thomas Paine and Elizabeth Paine, 4 June 1774*, 2009, pers. comm. Now on display in Lewes Town Hall
- Christopher Rumsey, ‘The Wife of A Revolutionary’, *T.P.S Bulletin*, No.2, Vol 4, 1999, pp.14-22.

44: Jess King

Jess King, is a striker, for Lewes FC Women and a rapper.

What do you do work-wise?

Apart from football, I work for Age UK and coach at a primary school in Hove.

Which women have inspired you?

There's lots who have inspired me for different reasons and at different times in my life but I would say Kelly Holmes was a big inspiration as a child, along with Mia Hamm, Michelle Akers, Alex Scott, Rachael Yankee and more. Seeing people who look like you doing what you want to is very inspiring. Also, the likes of Michelle Obama and her empowering presence and ongoing impact. She wasn't just the President's wife, she is a figurehead in her own right.

What do you love about your role and the roles you've had in football?

I just enjoy winning games. I love being challenged and overcoming adversity. I enjoy the responsibility of being a leader in different circumstances and I love being able to teach the game too.

What do like about Lewes the town and what would you change about it?

I like the history and the nature around us being in a National Park. I would want it to be more diverse!

What would you say to a girl interested in playing football professionally? What would your advice to her be?

Don't ever quit. Don't take rejection as an end and don't let negative feedback define you. Work hard. Not just in training and in games but when no one is watching. Then when the time comes you can play with confidence knowing you have worked as hard and you have and are prepared.

How do you think women's football has changed over the time you've been playing?

It definitely has more following and more opportunity. It's not frowned upon or looked down on as much and it's accepted and respected more that women play football – and are good at it!

Has Lewes' equality initiative affected you in any way?

I would say that people talk about it a lot. It's a relevant and ongoing debate. I wouldn't say it's affected me but it's nice to be part of something that has similar beliefs and motivations.

What is the biggest challenge you've had to overcome, as a woman, to play football?

I'd definitely say financial challenges.



45 to 47: Women Leaders of Lewes District Council

Our series celebrates women who have made it to the top in leadership roles and publicly prominent posts. We featured the twelve women who have been mayor of Lewes Town Council in article number 37. In this article, we look at the next level of local government – Lewes District Council.

Lewes District Council serves a population of over 100,000 people and makes important decisions about planning, housing and the environment that will affect the region’s future for years to come. Under the current system, the Council Leader chairs a cabinet of councillors who decide the council’s policies and plans.

There has been a woman leader for about 30% of the district council’s 47-year existence. Four women have held the role since the LDC was first formed in 1973/4. Five years later, Mrs Julia Cumberlidge became the first woman leader between 1977 and 1978. Twenty years passed before Ann De Vecchi, a former mayor of Lewes, led the council from 1999 to 2011.

Another eight years elapsed, before two women leaders came along at once. In early 2019, Isabelle Linington became leader, followed by Zoe Nicholson. Zoe became leader of the Co-operative Alliance, which is made up of three parties plus two independent councillors.

Zoe is the subject of article no. 49. In 2018, the District Council held an event to encourage more women to stand as councillors. The election the following year saw a small increase in the proportion of women elected. Women’s representation also crept up at other levels of government. Women now make up 34% of the House of Commons, which represents an all-time high. However, the UK parliament is only 39th in the world for gender parity. At this rate of progress, the House of Commons will take another fifty years to achieve equal representation.



Percentage of women at different levels of UK government after 2019 election

	2015	2019	Change
Lewes Town Council	40	33	-
Lewes District Council	32	39	+
East Sussex County Council	16	18	+
House of Commons	32	34	+
House of Lords	26	27	+

48: Zoe Nicholson

Zoe Nicholson was leader of Lewes District Council in 2020 and is part of the Co-operative Alliance made up of three political parties plus two independents.

What do you do workwise?

Until very recently I was Chief Executive of a social enterprise in Brighton that delivers NHS services to a million people, I'm on a break at the moment, enjoying a singular focus on one thing: my work at Lewes District Council. For the last 29 years I have worked in health care locally. I came into the NHS as a general management trainee in 1991, and I've had lots of different roles in a wide range of services.



Photo courtesy of Zoe Nicholson.

Thirteen years ago I started a not for profit social enterprise, with some colleagues, we built an organisation from humble beginnings to now over 250 employees serving 1 million people, and a UK wide reach.

What do love about your role?

My role at the Council is both fun and challenging, I have to have a broad reach across many subject areas, housing, planning, economic development, climate change and sustainability, as well as many stakeholders and many different relationships, from individual residents, to staff, unions, other councillors, leaders, business stakeholders. I guess it's the variety and the also the breadth that I enjoy. I also love working with others to solve problems together. We are facing some pretty scary and desperate times, if the existential threat of climate change wasn't a big enough problem, a global pandemic and now the worst recession in 300 years feels very challenging. The solutions simply don't come from the type of thinking that created the problem in the first place, and to find solutions means working with others, using an evidence base and challenging the current paradigm of thinking. One that puts science, evidence and the best interests of people, social justice and the planet together in a way that finds collaborative solutions.

Which women have inspired you?

I'm never very good at questions like this. I am inspired by ideas and actions and my personal relationships with people. Some early inspiration (at fourteen years old) came from Emmeline Pankhurst and the suffragettes. I was struck by her determination and personal commitment. I was introduced to Margaret Wheatley, who wrote *Leadership and the New Science* in the late 90's. I admired her work for its clarity of communication of some complex ideas, and its application into organisational life. Over the last 20 years I have worked with her on and off, and I admire the whole person, that she is. Her clarity of intellect, her courage, her commitment to her meditation practices (she's a Buddhist), but also her faults. We are not perfect, so sometimes I see things in her that are reflections of myself that I don't like about myself, perhaps being a little bit too sure of herself at times! This is perhaps why I find this question difficult, we are all a mix of imperfections and sometimes we get it right and sometimes we don't.

What makes a good leader?

It's tempting to answer this question from the perspective of the "right" kind of ideology about leadership, so I could wax lyrical about the fact that I believe that everyone is a leader, everyone can step forward to enact change and they do every single day, and I guess that's a useful reference for you as reader to help you to understand my perspective. If I think what are the essential tools for a good leader, then it's really quite simple: openness to learn and listening, knowing when your own judgements are getting in the way of listening and knowing when to bring your experience, expertise to bear, and learning how to ask really good questions. Finally having the humility to know when you have made a mistake and say sorry.

What needs to change to get more women in politics?

Lots of things. From a local government perspective, tackling sex discrimination and attitudes towards women in our councils and local government as whole, addressing the councillor allowance issue to make it affordable for working-age women to want to give up work to become a councillor (mostly this is a not an attractive option if you are a working mum). Nationally we need to set a limit on how many terms you can serve as a councillor, as the age and sex profile of councils put people off. Be more family and child friendly - bringing babies to council chambers should be really quite normal!

What do like about Lewes?

I love Lewes town's proximity to the Downs, sea and river. I love the diversity of people, and I guess when I think of Lewes, I think of the whole District, so Seaford beach is my favourite beach, the walk along the river at Barcombe Mills is one of my favourite childhood places. I should say I have lived in Sussex all my life. I love the marina at Newhaven, and Castle Hill Nature Reserve for its amazing butterflies, Peacehaven for its cliff walk. There is so much to enjoy here!

49: Ellen Knapton

St Anne's church in Lewes contains a moving tribute to nurse Ellen Knapton, who fought the flu pandemic at the end of the First World War.

Research by Graham Mayhew revealed that Ellen Blanche Knapton, ARRC was matron of School Hill House Military Hospital, for which she received the Royal Red Cross (2nd Cl). Established in October 1914 it treated

over 800 wounded men, whose light blue uniforms became a common sight in the town. Before the war she had been housekeeper to a retired barrister at Clevedown, Lewes and was an active member of St Anne's Church and the local Red Cross. She died on 15th January 1919, worn out by her labours, during the flu epidemic of 1918-19 shortly after the hospital closed. She was 47 years old.

A photograph of her and her staff and patients was included in the Reeves light box displays and can be seen online on the Edward Reeves website: *Stories Seen Through a Glass Plate 1914-1918 Lewes Remembers*, see <http://www.reevesarchive.co.uk/SSTAGPIV/17.html>



50: Katy Bourne



Photo courtesy of the PCC.

Katy Bourne, OBE talks to us about her role as the elected Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex.

What do you do?

I am the Police & Crime Commissioner for Sussex. My role is to hold the Chief Constable of Sussex Police to account for the performance of the force, effectively making the police answerable to the communities they serve. I am also responsible for setting the strategic direction and priorities for Sussex Police via the Police and Crime Plan.

This includes setting the police budget (£309 million) and local police precept (the amount residents pay for policing in their council tax). I have a statutory duty to commission support services for all victims of crime and to deliver community safety/crime reduction initiatives.

What do like about your role?

I have always cared passionately about Sussex. I've lived in this county all my life, raised my family here and I want residents to feel safe and supported by their local police force and the specialist services that I commission. Knowing that I can play a part in keeping our county safer and providing victims of all crime with the crucial help they need to cope and recover is the best part of my job.

Which women have inspired you?

My very first English teacher, Mrs Blacker, inspired me to read and fall in love with our language and all its oddities. Emmeline Pankhurst still inspires me today for her sheer determination and courage in the face of distressing opposition and her 'deeds not words' definitely propelled me into the voting booth as soon as I turned 18.

What makes a good leader?

Being able to listen, speak openly and honestly, be passionate about what you do and not be afraid to make the hard decisions. Above all, maintain a good sense of humour because we all need hope, especially in bad times. The civil rights activist and poet Maya Angelou said “I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel” In my role, everything I do must reflect the views of the public I serve in Sussex and every decision I make must be totally transparent. I am passionate about giving everyone a voice in policing and opening up an honest dialogue about where improvements can and should be made. This is why I spend a lot of my time listening intently to residents’ concerns and feedback and I very much base my yearly priority setting on those conversations.

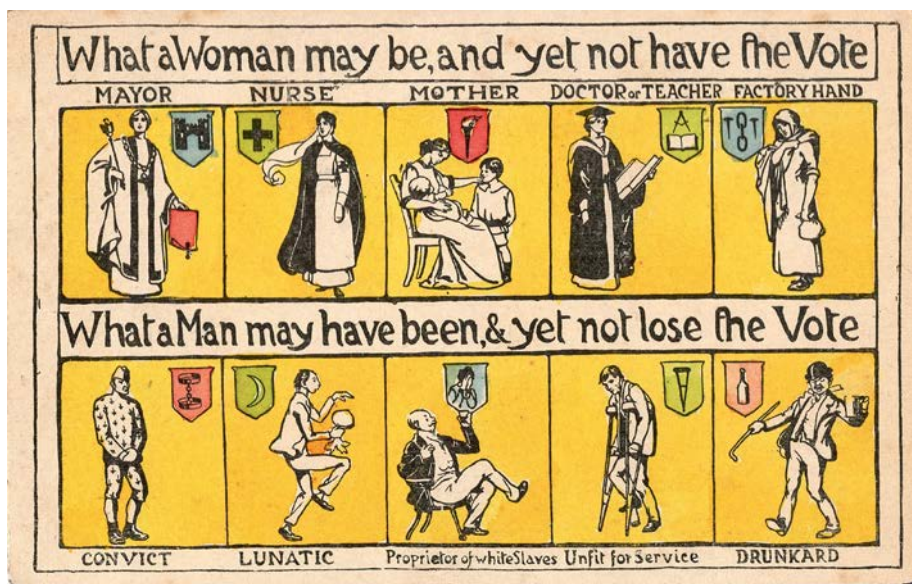
What needs to change for more women to take up high profile public roles?

In both elections for Sussex PCC I was the only woman to stand and I know first-hand the type of scrutiny that this opens you up to. However, this should never put women off from standing for any elected public role. Over my eight years as PCC, I have invested time into reaching out to women across Sussex and beyond, who are interested in senior public roles. It is important we all encourage diversity into the world of policing and the wider public sector. Attracting and developing more women in leadership roles often requires a shift in attitude and, because the tone is always set from the top, all leaders have a responsibility to positively seek out and promote talent wherever they find it. We must remember that there is no disparity between what women and men can achieve. Just go for it!

What do like about Lewes?

I read somewhere once that Lewes has ‘small-town charm but a big personality’ and I totally agree. Its charmingly quaint exterior belies an amazing history that includes a castle, a famous battle and the fact that it was once a major port supporting industries like iron, ship building and brewing – which thankfully still exists today! Lewes is also where my office is based and where Sussex Police’s headquarters are. I spend a lot of time in Lewes and I couldn’t think of a better place to work from.

The Vote 100 Lewes Events



Women got the vote for the first time. Women over 30, that is – it took another decade before every adult, male or female, got the vote. This was a huge achievement, and the result of many years' hard work of the Suffragists, led by Millicent Garrett Fawcett, and the Suffragettes, led by Emmeline Pankhurst.

During the late 19th and early 20th century, women had begun to get a few rights, despite being best seen and not heard. In 1882, the law was changed to allow women to own property when they were married – before, all their property (including their children) had become their husband's. Largely because of Sussex medic Sophia Jex-Blake, women could be doctors. Women could get degrees – from some universities. The First World War saw women taking over many jobs which had previously been men's – and doing them rather well. By 1918, as this poster makes clear, women could do an awful lot. But they couldn't vote.

Vote100Lewes is a celebration of the centenary of the female vote, and of the many women – and men – who are helping continue the progress towards equality, in sport, the arts, business, education and politics.

Image from LSE Women's Library Flickr

Suffragists and Suffragettes

If you type 'Fawcett' into Google, it's Millicent's son Percy who comes up as the featured Wikipedia article. Presumably, this is all done on hits, but how about a little positive discrimination here (or mass hitting by da sisterhood)? After all, Percy was only an explorer – someone who went off to have lots of exciting adventures basically for his own pleasure (although he'd have argued that it was for the good of humanity). Millicent, on the other hand, helped give millions of women the vote, turning them from voiceless subjects into active members of political society.

Millicent Fawcett led the united society of women's suffrage groups, the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS), formed in 1867. It had over 500 branches and 100,000

members by the Great War. The NUWSS was committed to peaceful protest and education, and its members lobbied politicians, and used public meetings, pamphlets, newspaper articles and petitions to get support for the cause. One of their slogans is particularly good: 'Women of all Nations: "Dare to be Free"'. We still need reminding of that.

The NUWSS colours were red, white and green (above), rather than the violet, green and white of the militant Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU), founded by Emmeline Pankhurst (left).



The suffragettes certainly made more noise, but the impact of the NUWSS must not be underestimated. There was no WSPU branch in Lewes, although there were plenty of supporters of universal suffrage. By the way, Millicent Fawcett's sister, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, was the first female doctor in Britain – another hero(ine) for any professional woman.

Top: NUWSS flyer, 1914; bottom WSPU postcard: source LSE Women's Library Flickr.

Vote100Lewes display goes up



Volunteers gathered in Lewes' Tourist Information Centre to put up an exhibition celebrating the centenary of the Representation of the People Act on Tuesday, 6th February 2018. This exhibition changed during the week to celebrate our present and future, as well as our past.

Thanks to the Tourist Information staff.

No Petticoats Here

On 24th February 2018 at the **All Saints Centre**, Louise Jordan performed her acclaimed show 'No Petticoats Here'. The show is a mixture of songs and anecdotes about women during the First World War – from nurses on the front line to 'the aspiring teenage journalist who dressed as a soldier and travelled to the Western Front on a bicycle.'

The material took Louise over a year to gather from archives in Britain, France and Belgium – the title comes from the comment of a senior army official who, when a female medical corps was suggested, replied that 'we don't want any petticoats here'.

Profits went to a charity helping young women in desperate circumstances to go to school every day of the month.



Lewes FC



In July 2017, our local football club became the first in the world to guarantee an equal playing budget to both its men's and women's teams. That's right, I did say 'world'.

Lewes FC Women already played at the Dripping Pan on in the football world where most women's teams play on inferior pitches – but now Lewes FC were dedicating themselves to equality and paying their women's team the same as their men's. They even started to put both teams' fixtures on the same posters with the hashtag

#oneclub, and the posters deliberately featured famous male and female couples – just to drive the point home.

There is no doubt that for some time football has been a bastion of maleness. Some of the most macho narratives have been played out in its name – from rowdy, aggressive fans, to overpaid and oversexed players. Lewes Football Club is different. The club is 100% community-owned and democratic with a core purpose stating “The business of the club is to be conducted for the benefit of the community served by the club and not for the profit of its owners.” No shady directors making money in closed shops for them – instead they are an asset at the heart of the community.

The Club is owned by over 1300 owners who pay £30 per year, on the principle of one owner, one share, one vote. It has made international headlines with its acclaimed Equality FC Campaign. The one negative criticism was that women footballers didn't deserve to be paid the same as men, despite putting in the same training and playing hours, because they didn't attract the same gate figures at matches and therefore weren't as commercially successful. The Club responded by launching its Unlock the Gate campaign to increase attendance at women's matches, nicely timed to coincide with the Centenary of Suffrage. More and more women have been attending the women's matches in solidarity with the nascent cause for equality in sport and to support Lewes' stance on closing the gender pay gap and 'kicking the ball right through the thick glass ceiling'.

It seemed only fitting then that we should interview some of the pioneering women involved with the Club. In true community spirit I've included questions fielded from my social media followers as well as our Vote 100 Lewes Team, some of whom are football fans and some of whom have yet to see the beauty in the beautiful game!

Stories seen through a glass plate

The Edward Reeves photography exhibition on women and the vote opened on Saturday 15th December 2018 at Lewes Town Hall and ran until late January 2019. Telling the story of Lewes women of the early 20th century, this was a must-see! You can find out more at www.reevesarchive.co.uk.



STORIES SEEN THROUGH A GLASS PLATE FROM SUFFRAGE TO CITIZENSHIP 15 DECEMBER – 4 JANUARY

An Edward Reeves Archive Project exhibition in partnership with Lewes Town Council marking a hundred years since the 1918 general election.

It tells the stories of the campaigners in Lewes: suffragists, suffragettes and anti-suffragists, and shows portraits by Benjamin Reeves of women who voted for the first time on 14 December 1918. The display is enhanced with images sourced from other archives.

E. Reeves

REEVESARCHIVE.CO.UK

The Edward Reeves Studio in Lewes is believed to be the oldest continually operating photographic studio in the world. Today it houses an amazing archive of images which provide a unique record of the daily life of Lewes and the history of commercial photography. It currently houses 150,000 glass negatives and around 200,000 other photographs. The studio is now run by Tom Reeves, the great grandson of Edward Reeves, with his wife Tania Osband.

The Edward Reeves archive project was conceived and is led by Brigitte Lardinois, Director of the Photography and Archive Research Centre based at LCC, University of the Arts London.

The project relies on the support of the many volunteers who have come forward to make this unique archive accessible. Led by Kathryn Tolovey, the digital curator, they are digitising the business ledgers in order to make the 150,000 glass plate archive searchable. Kathryn and her team have now successfully transcribed all the business ledgers of the period 1910-1920, which has enabled us to do the research for this exhibition as well as for the previous *Stories Seen Through the Glass Plate* exhibition 1914-1918: *Lewes Remembers*. This exhibition can still be accessed online at www.reevesarchive.co.uk

A team of volunteers also research the stories behind the photographs. The research for this exhibition was led by Dr Diana Wilkins, who built on previous research done by local historian Frances Stonlake.

Other volunteers help by constructing light boxes and installing the exhibitions as well as organising related community events.

We urgently need more people to help with the digitisation of the business ledgers as this is the only way to unlock this important photographic archive. This work can be done at home, transcribing scanned images of the handwritten ledgers into an Excel sheet. Any offer of help, even just a few hours here and there, is welcome. Should you be interested in joining the team, please email info@reevesarchive.co.uk

FROM SUFFRAGE TO CITIZENSHIP

17 DECEMBER 2018 – 4 JANUARY 2019
MONDAY-FRIDAY, 9 AM – 5 PM. ADMISSION FREE

LEWES TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, LEWES

BAXTER CORRIDOR

An exhibition tracing the people and places involved in the debate in Lewes about women's right to vote.

ENTRANCE HALL

Portraits of the twelve women who have been Mayor of Lewes, mostly taken by Edward Reeves Photography.

RELATED EVENTS:

Saturday Open Day

Saturday 15 December 2018

Equality FC stall, suffrage photos, plus the chance to register to vote. 11-4pm, Yarrow Room & Baxter Corridor, Lewes Town Hall, High Street, Lewes. Free event

Tourist Information Centre Display

Friday 14 December – Thursday 21 December 2018

Commemorating the centenary of women's right to vote, Tourist Information Centre, 187 High Street, Lewes, BN27DE

Lewes History Group talk by Dr Diana Wilkins

10 December 2018

Tracing the suffrage story in detail using images from the Edward Reeves Archive and the LSE Women's Library. Kings Church, Brooks Road, Lewes, BN27BY, 7pm for 7.30-9pm. £1 for members, £3 for non-members.

Illustrated talk by Sonya Babi

4 January 2019

International Suffragettes: linking nations for the vote and for peace. Council Chamber, 730

E. Reeves

ual • London College
of Communication

LETTER PAPER

Lewes Museum

Leeds University

Leeds University

Leeds University

Lewes Museum

FROM SUFFRAGE TO CITIZENSHIP

The general election of 14 December 1918 was a landmark in British democracy. For the first time, some women were able to vote, along with millions more men, tripling the size of the electorate.

The demand for women's voting rights gathered pace at the turn of the twentieth century, led by a mass movement of peaceful Suffragists. However, frustration at the slow pace of reform led to the rise of a smaller group of militant Suffragettes. Women's right to vote was opposed by Anti-suffragists. All three groups were present in Lewes.

This exhibition looks at the struggle that led to women winning the vote. It tells the stories of local people who campaigned for and against the vote.

While many women voted for the first time in 1918, millions of other women were still excluded. Those under thirty and poorer women, including many in lodgings or domestic service, had to wait until 1928 for the right to vote.

As the First World War drew to a close, nine thousand local women added their name to the electoral register. This project encouraged local people to ask how their family might have been involved in this campaign. This exhibition brings some of their stories to light.

The right to vote was accompanied by changes that allowed women to become councillors, mayors, MPs and peers. In Lewes, the first woman councillor was elected in 1920, the first woman mayor in 1963, the first woman MP in 2015 and the first mayor from an ethnic minority in 2018. Unfortunately, a century after the first women got the vote women are still underrepresented at all levels of UK government.



[seated]
Gladys Beard
first able to vote aged 34



[seated]
Gladys Vardall
first able to vote aged 49



[seated]
Susanah Gladfield
first able to vote aged 38



[seated]
Ellen Fitcher
first able to vote aged 47

Cover Image: [seated]
Ella Stewart Jones
first able to vote aged 34

1914-1918 LEWES REMEMBERS

The Stories Seen Through a Glass Plate exhibition shown in 2016 and 2017 at light boxes in the streets of Lewes, dealt with life in the town during the First World War. The exhibition, complete with an audio-visual trail is still viewable online on www.lewesremembers.com. The *Lewes Remembers* exhibition relates directly to the current exhibition *From Suffrage to Citizenship*. Many soldiers who had gone to fight did so without having a vote in the country they were defending. Women who had been campaigning for equality and the vote stepped in to do jobs formerly done by men, as well as running the injured. The injustice of their exclusion from voting was addressed after the end of WW1; all men and some women voted for the first time in the General Election in December 1918.



The Lewes Remembers exhibition inspired a moving community event.

On Remembrance Sunday 2017 a vigil was held at Lewes War Memorial. Based on research done for the 2016 exhibition about Lewes life in the First World War, 236 volunteers of the same age as the fallen named on the War Memorial walked with a lit torch from the home addresses of the casualties. At the Memorial, as the name, address and cause of death was read out, they donned their flames. A cordon of 100 women surrounded the men.

This Edward Reeves Archive project event was organised in partnership with Lewes Town Council and the seven local boogie societies. 500 volunteers were involved.

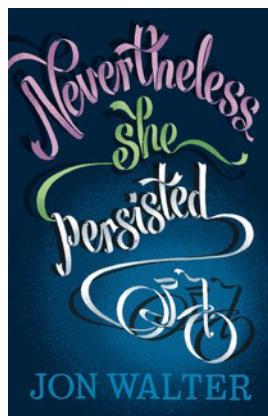
For logistical reasons the numbers attending this vigil had to be kept to a minimum. In order to share the event a short film was made, and a second additional film explores the impact this event has had on the local community, notably the many young people who took part in the vigil. These films are now available on YouTube from the Edward Reeves Studio, 159 High Street, Lewes BN24 3AP.

Nevertheless She Persisted

Local author Jon Walter tells us about his recent book...

So let's get straight to the point. *Nevertheless She Persisted* is a suffragette novel written by a man. This makes some people uneasy and I can understand why, but I make no apologies. The world would be a better place if more men were inspired by stories of strong women like the Pankhursts.

We don't get to hear much about the men who supported the struggle for female suffrage at the time and that's to be expected – it's not their story. Keir Hardie was a strong advocate of female suffrage and George Lansbury resigned his seat to force a by-election on the issue (which he lost). Frederick Pethick Lawrence worked alongside his wife and devoted much of his time and considerable amounts of money to the cause as did other reformers such as Henry Fawcett.





One of the stories I considered using in the book was of Hugh Franklin. He was a suffragette. And he wasn't alone – up to 100 men were arrested for suffragette activity. But Hugh Franklin stands out as the most committed.

He took a bull whip to a young Winston Churchill, whom he blamed for the violence and sexual

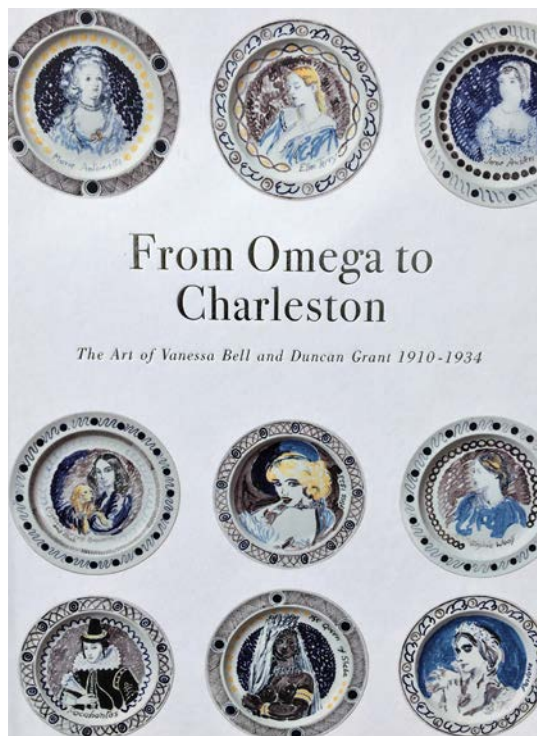
assaults on suffragettes in Parliament Square on Black Friday. (Churchill was later quoted as saying “I will not be hen-pecked into giving women the vote.”) On another occasion, Franklin was arrested and jailed for setting fire to an empty train carriage. He went on hunger strike and was actually the first suffragette to be released from prison under the notorious Cat and Mouse Act.

When I learned about him, I have to admit, I thought this might be my story. It had all the ingredients of a successful novel but the more I considered it, the more uncomfortable I became. Hugh Franklin's story was a very different story from the ones that had inspired me, the stories of strong women. It's not that I think the book shouldn't be written. I think it could make a fantastic novel. But not by me, at least not this time.

The novel follows the lives of two young sisters employed as prison wardens at Holloway during the height of the suffragette hunger strikes. One of them, Nancy, becomes part of the suffragette struggle. Her sister, Clara, follows a more conformist path, making decisions about her work and personal relationships. But both are forced to confront their roles as women in a society that rigidly prescribed the choices available to them.

The novel also features a cameo appearance by Ethel Birnstingl, a great aunt of Jessica Birnstingl, my own mother-in-law. In the novel she wears a badge from the Jewish Suffrage League. The original badge, as well as a letter from Christabel Pankhurst, featured in the Vote100 exhibition in Lewes Town Hall.

Fiftyish Famous Women



From Omega to Charleston

The Art of Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant 1910-1934

In the 1930s, local painters, Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant assembled their own list of female achievers. They painted the portraits of famous women on a set of dinner plates for the art historian, Kenneth Clark, now displayed at Charleston Farmhouse near Firle. Intended as a prompt to dinner party conversation, the faces on the plates eschew 'worthy' religious, political or philanthropic women, for a set of boundary-breaking females. The fifty faces were grouped into women of letters, queens, beauties, actresses & dancers and include a one man – Duncan Grant!

Throughout the series identity is up for grabs. Nicknames, stage names and pen names proliferate. Cities and countries are adopted and exchanged. They include women that dress in men's clothes, either

by preference, like Queen Christina of Sweden, or by profession, like the actor Sarah Bernhardt – a specialist in 'trouser' roles. These women intrude on traditionally male roles, for example, as monarchs or writers, or by reclaiming aspects of ballet and acting thought to be beyond women's capabilities.

All in all, these are women that skip across boundaries. They challenge convention. Indeed, they have to. How else were women to survive and thrive and in a world shaped by men's rules? No wonder curator, Dan Vo, said that the collection represents some of the truly 'badass' women of history.

100 Lewes Women List

This is our list of just some of the amazing women of Lewes, past and present. It is a snapshot of some of the many stories of women who have made an impact on the town and on the wider world. The names were provided by the Vote100Lewes group.

No.	1st name	Surname	Role
1	Daisy	Ashford	Writer
2	Gundarada	de Warenne	Endowed priory
3	Kate	Fowler Tutt	Suffragist
4	Frances	Byng-Stamper	Gallerist
5	Caroline	Byng-Lucas	Sculptor
6	Faye	Baker	Lewes FC Footballer
7	Ruth	Gipps	Composer
8	Avilla	Berger	Lewes FC Footballer
9	Mary Ann	Mantell	Discovered a dinosaur
10	Tammy	Warne	Lewes FC Footballer
11	Charlotte	Owen	Lewes FC Footballer
12	Lisa	Barnsley	Related to suffragette
13	Norah	Brown	Sisters theatre
14	Lisa	Gould	Sisters theatre
15	Kelly	Newton	Lewes FC Footballer
16	Peggy	Angus	Painter
17	Rebecca	Thompson-Agbro	Lewes FC Footballer
18	Isabel	Thorne	Early medic
19	Natasha	Wells	Footballer
20	Frances	Viscountess Wolsley	Horticulturalist
21	Eleanor	Farjeon	Writer
22	Eve	Garnett	Writer
23	Shannon	Maloney	Lewes FC Footballer
24	Violet	Gordon Woodhouse	Musician
25	Nina	Wilson	Lewes FC Footballer
26	Anne	Dumbrell	Mayor of Lewes
27	Beatrice	Temple	Mayor of Lewes
28	Dorothy	Reed	Mayor of Lewes
29	Joanna	Hallet	Mayor of Lewes
30	Christine	Tester	Mayor of Lewes
31	Ann	De Vecchi Hopper	Mayor of Lewes
32	Maureen	Messer	Mayor of Lewes
33	Barbara	Riddihough	Mayor of Lewes
34	Amanda	Dean	Mayor of Lewes
35	Ruth	O'Keefe	Mayor of Lewes
36	Susan	Murray	Mayor of Lewes

No.	1st name	Surname	Role
37	Janet	Baah	Mayor of Lewes
38	Sonya	Baksi	Doctor
39	Unknown	Unknown	Anchoress
40	Greta	Allen	Suffragette
41	Eva	Stewart-Jones	Suffragist
42	Auriol	Sinclair	Racehorse trainer
43	Elizabeth	Ollive	Shopkeeper
44	Jess	King	Footballer, rapper
45	Julia	Cumberlidge	LDC Leader
46	Ann	De Vecchi	LDC Leader
47	Isabelle	Linington	LDC Leader
48	Zoe	Nicholson	LDC Leader & business
49	Ellen	Knapton	Hospital matron WW1
50	Katy	Bourne	Police & Crime Commissioner
51	Prof Jackie	Cassell	Brighton & Sussex Medical School
52	Hannah	Wood	1st woman town councillor in Lewes
53	Katie	Rood	Lewes FC Footballer
54	Emma	Jones	Lewes FC Footballer
55	Grace	Nichols	Poet
56	Sian	Edwards	Conductor
57	Dawn	Whittaker	Chief Fire Officer, ESFRS
58	Jo	Shiner	Chief Constable Sussex Police
59	Virginia	Woolf	Writer
60	Vanessa	Bell	Artist
61	Carmen	Slijpen	Community Award-winner
62	Brigitte	Lardinois	Community Award-winner
63	Barbara	Willard	Author
64	Agnes	Morley	Founded Tudor school
65	Polly	Toynbee	Journalist
66	Kiri	Te Kanawa	Opera singer
67	Shirley	Collins	Folk singer
68	Valmai	Goodyear	Founded Lewes Saturday Folk Club
69	Alison	Jolly	Primatologist
70	Grace	Kimmins	Founded children's charities
71	Noel	Streatfeild	Author
72	Margaret	Weedon	Olympian archer
73	Rosalie	Birch	England cricketer
74	Jane	Roberts	Lewes FC Footballer
75	Jacky	Gilligan	Lewes FC Footballer
76	Thomasina	Wood	C16th Lewes martyr
77	Margery	Morris	C16th Lewes martyr
78	Ann	Ashdown	C16th Lewes martyr

No.	1st name	Surname	Role
79	Mary	Groves	C16th Lewes martyr
80	Mary	Godlee	Set up school
81	Lee	Miller	Model, photographer & writer
82	Alice	Dudeney	20th Century diarist
83	Chloe	Edwards	Founded Lewes Women in Business
84	Camilla	Windsor	Duchess of Cornwall
85	Felicity	Lott	Opera singer
86	Dr Joan	Hester	Pain Unit, Eastbourne
87	Maria	Caulfield	1st woman MP for Lewes
89	Penelope	Leach	Psychologist
90	Louisa	Martindale (mother)	Suffragist
91	Dr Louisa	Martindale (daughter)	Early woman doctor
92	Debbie	Twitchen	Tenants Association activist
93	Emily	Clarke Landport	Landport Foodbank
94	Sam	Moulder Lewes	Lewes Foodbank
95	Julian	Warrender	Author & Ouse Valley Foods
96	Jessica	Zoob	Artist
97	Amanda	Saurin	Business
98	Miriam	Moss	Children's author
99	Clare	Best	Poet
100	Elizabeth	Howard	Campaigner, Friends of Lewes

The first fifty women feature in this booklet and you can read more about our them on our website www.vote100Lewes.com. For more on the lives of women across the county, see 100 Pioneering Women of Sussex on the Brighton Museum website.

GIRLS FOR CHANGE – RIGHTS DIGNITY, HOPE

The Girls for Change event on 25th April 2019 was the brainchild of Janet Baah, the Mayor of Lewes at the time, who is passionate about ensuring every girl has a chance to shine. Growing up in Ghana, she had to fight to get an education and has recently completed a PhD at Sussex University. She is the first black Mayor of Lewes and only the twelfth female Mayor. She is still a Councillor in the town.

In December 2018, the Reeves Lightbox team curated an exhibition in the Town Hall about the history of Suffragists and Suffragettes in Lewes, celebrating the 2018 centenary of when some women got the vote. We wanted to bring the message home and make it relevant to girls and young women in the town. Together, we organised a day for 100 girls from all the schools of Lewes.

The day mirrored the main slogans of the Suffragettes: Rights, Dignity and Hope, and we wanted to learn what these headings would mean to our young women. Our aim was to hold a unique event, at which girls from Lewes would meet together to develop their ideas for the changes that would improve their lives and opportunities, and to tell us what they hoped for in the future.

Our job, and the job of the invited guests, was to listen to what they had to say. Jane Foot, who designed and chaired the day, said “Our aim was to give the girls and young women in the town the chance to share their ideas about what needs to change, and to have their voices heard by the adults who have power to make things happen. From what we saw, there is a lot of energy and enthusiasm in the town that the girls can be very proud of”.

Referring to her chain of office, the Mayor, Janet Baah said:

“It’s not about the chain, but about the change”.

The Mayor invited all the schools to participate and asked influential guests to attend. We designed a logo, and used it for headed notepaper for the invitations, briefings and the programme. Each girl had a tote bag with the logo, a glossy postcard of the banner, a printed name label for each girl (which they loved), a notebook and pens. This made a unique event bringing together a cross section of young women in the town with women who are important and successful in their professional, political and civic roles: they have the power to make things happen.

Our aims for the day:

“We hope this event will help young students speak out with confidence about issues they believe in.” Our key message for the girls is that their ideas will be listened to, taken seriously, and that they can act to make change.

What we did

Each primary and secondary school in the town was invited to send twelve girls each, aged between 9 and 17, and all but one agreed. Different schools chose the girls in different ways: some asked for volunteers and some chose on the basis of an essay about why they wanted to attend. They were accompanied by a teacher. We had more than 100 girls.

Programme for the day



GIRLS FOR CHANGE
RIGHTS, DIGNITY, HOPE

LEWES TOWN HALL
25TH APRIL 2019 10.00 – 14.00

PROGRAMME FOR THE DAY

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 10.00 | Assembly Room – Procession in of Honoured Guests
Welcome and introduction of Guests
Welcome by Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex, Mr Peter Field
and Councillor Janet Baah, Mayor of Lewes |
| 10.25-11.20 | Conversation at tables. Discuss your hopes under the headings:
<i>Rights, Dignity, Hope. What would you like to change in the next 10 years?</i>
Agree one topic to write on the flip chart paper |
| 11.30 | Corn Exchange – Music from East Sussex College |
| 11.45 | Unveiling of the Lewes Suffragette Banner by the Mayor of Lewes |
| 12.00-12.45 | Lunch will be provided
The Edward Reeves Archive Suffragette exhibition will be on show, accompanied by
photos and videos |
| 12.45 | Grace Nichols will perform a poem |
| 13.00 | Selected Guests will choose one proposal for change and say what they can do to help
achieve that change |
| 13.45 | The Box of Hopes to be opened in 2028
Thank you by Violet Hancock, High Sheriff of East Sussex |

E. Reeves



ual: photography and the
archive research centre

In the Assembly Room in the Town Hall, we set out tables for each school – 12 girls and one teacher. We covered the tables with paper tablecloths, flip chart paper and put out a pile of coloured pens and post its. Each table had the Briefing below. The paper tablecloth and pens meant everyone could write down their ideas, even if they could not make themselves heard in the hubbub of the conversation! As one girl said “it let girls that don’t talk much speak for themselves.”

The teachers had been sent a briefing beforehand, explaining the objectives and process of the day and their role to facilitate the girls to talk amongst themselves and come up with their priority wishes for the future.



Women and girls have campaigned for more than 100 years under the slogan ‘Rights, Dignity, Hope’. What are the changes you want to campaign for and help to achieve?

RIGHTS

Rights are ‘a moral or legal entitlement to have or do something.’ We are here remembering the Suffragettes campaign for the right to vote, alongside campaigns for women to own their own property, or qualify as doctors. We have had the legal right to equal pay for 40 years but there is still a 17% gap between women’s and men’s earnings.

DIGNITY

Women are still campaigning to be treated with dignity and respect that we all deserve. For instance, the right not be bullied or ignored, and campaigns against violence against girls and women.

HOPE

We all have hopes for our futures and for changes in the world around us. What are your hopes for the future? For instance, what do you hope will happen to stop climate change?

For more than an hour, the participants talked animatedly about the changes they thought would improve the lives of girls and young women, and what they could do to help bring about those changes. These ideas were all scribbled down on the paper tablecloths, and then the girls at each table chose one idea that they thought was most important to present to everyone else.

Their ideas included more action on women's jobs, equal pay and equal opportunities; girls having more access to different sports and to schools having mixed teams; an end to stereotyping, for instance, clothes for girls being pink; feeling safe walking down the street, girls being more confident to say what they think and to deal with harassment and bullying; and of course, tackling climate change.

At the end, the girls at the table choose one of the changes/topics to write up clearly. These were written on large flip chart paper and displayed on the walls over lunch. This gave everyone the chance to see what ideas had been discussed and what were the most important messages to take forward.

The organisers then asked some of the guests to choose one issue that they connected with, had something to say and could help achieve in their professional or personal lives.

The Guests

The Lord Lieutenant of Sussex, Mr. Peter Field, welcomed everyone; he came in his full regalia looking splendidly important. Violet Hancock, the High Sheriff of East Sussex closed the event. This gave the event local significance and communicated how seriously we took the proceedings.

We are very grateful to all our guests for their time and their enthusiasm for our project.

We chose local guests because they had something to say about the likely issues of the day, and they potentially had the influence and power to advocate for and make the changes that the girls developed. We wanted to turn the usual format upside down: their role was not to make speeches but to listen to the girls' voices and then to respond with what they could do to bring about change.

Maria Caulfield MP and Stephen Lloyd MP, the Mayors of Eastbourne and Lewes District Councils, and many local councilors were invited. They were joined by locally-based advocates for girls and women's rights, such as Giles York, the then Chief Constable of Sussex Police, Professor Richard Jolly, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex and formerly Assistant General Secretary of the United Nations, Professor Gillian Hampden-Thompson Professor of Education, Sussex University, Karen Dobres of Lewes Equality Football Club, Baroness Olly Grender OBE and Baroness Janet Whittaker.

During the morning, these guests listened to the conversations on the tables. After lunch, they were invited to choose one of the girls' wishes that they felt strongly about and say what they could do to help them achieve their aspirations and make changes for girls.



The poet, Grace Nichols (left), energised the room by performing two poems, accompanied by Tony Kalume on the drums. She read two poems “For an environmentally friendly baby” and “Spirit Rising”. They spoke of her humour and her long engagement with women’s responsibility to be the change they want to see. She quoted the black US feminist poet Audre Lorde: “Your silence will not protect you.” “Feel the fear,” she said. “If you are afraid of something, it could be because you care deeply about it. Do it anyway.”

Hope in a box – 1928 to 2028

In ten years’ time, we will be celebrating 1928 when all women won the right to vote. What changes do we want to see happen before the 2028 celebrations? At the end of the afternoon, all the girls were invited to write down their personal hopes and dreams and seal them in an envelope, which they put in a specially prepared wood box that has been sealed for ten years until the 2028 centenary celebrations of all women finally getting the vote. They will be invited back to witness the unsealing of the box and to see what they dreamed of and how much progress has been made. This box is stored in the Town Hall.

Unveiling the banner

A highlight of the day was the Mayor’s unveiling of the Suffragette banner, made by local artist Heather Downie. The banner was made for the Reeves Lightbox Suffragette exhibition celebrating 100 years since some women first got the vote. The Friends of Lewes very generously paid for it to be properly framed and the Town Council have put it on permanent display in the Corn Exchange. This banner is the cover of this pamphlet.

Closing the event and congratulating all the girls on their participation, Mayor Janet Baah said “It will take me 100 years to stop smiling.”

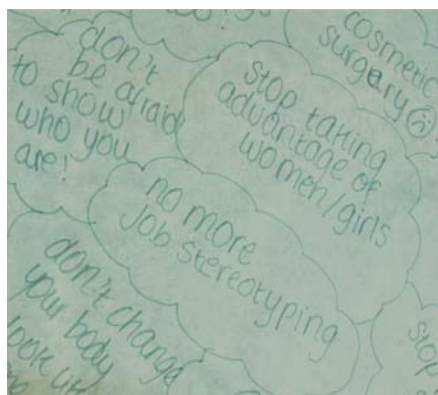
GIRLS TALK – WHAT THEY SAID & WHAT DO THEY WANT FOR THE FUTURE

We collected all the tablecloths that the girls had written on, and the quotes are all taken from them. We photographed flip-chart sheets with the girls' summaries of the most important points they wanted to talk about. These sheets were hung up for everyone to read over lunch. All the text below is quotes, unless it is in italics. This is girls speaking from their hearts about their experiences and their hopes

NO STEREOTYPING

This was such a strong theme on all the tables, of all ages, that it communicated very strongly how girls and young women feel constrained by stereotypical expectations, and the limitations on what they can imagine – and are encouraged - doing with their futures.

Peer pressure on what to wear and how to behave is intense and perceived to be limiting them in their ambitions.

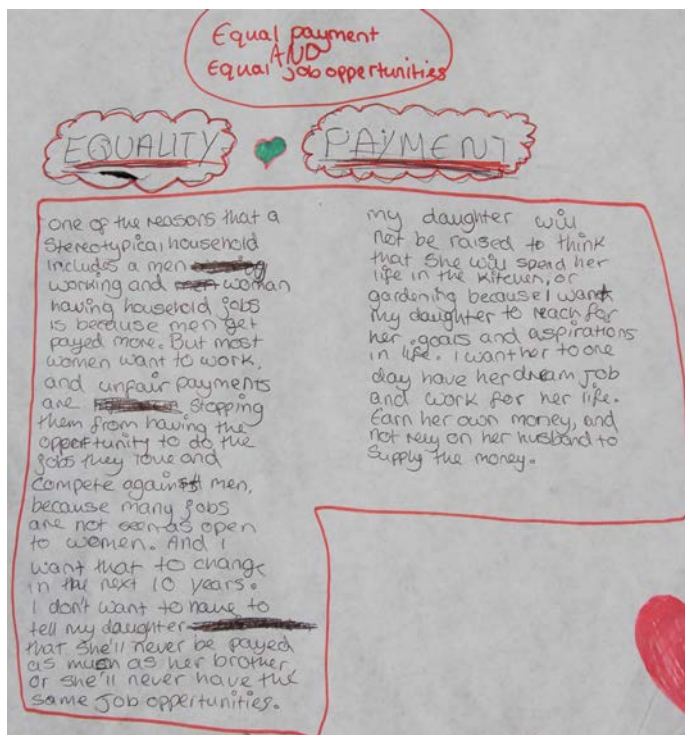


- Ditch the pink
- No princess t-shirts
- Stop sectioning shops for boys and girls clothing
- I'd like to see dinosaurs put on girls' clothes and rainbows on boys' clothes
- More tolerance for fashion choices
- Girls should be allowed to wear what they like no matter how short or long
- Women should not have to shave off their hair

- Stop objectifying women's bodies
- Equality in school
- Mixed gender friendships
- Stop single sex schools
- Women should not be seen as the weaker gender. No more expectations for women to be overly feminine
- Courses that teach men and women the same practical skills
- More female role models
- In all countries, lesbian women can get married and not be punished
- Be the first country to achieve gender equality
- It is good for girls to go anywhere, not with fear, but with pride
- No women should be afraid to try out something new

In reply, Professor Gillian Hampden-Thompson, Head of the School of Education and Social Work at the University of Sussex related the story of Maggie Pocock, the black space scientist and TV presenter of The Sky at Night. While at primary school she told her teacher that she wanted to travel to the moon. Her teacher replied by suggesting that she became a nurse instead because that involved science too. At the University of Sussex, they train hundreds of teachers a year and it is important that they can be relied on to challenge stereotypes, not just in girls, but boys too.

EQUAL PAY AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES



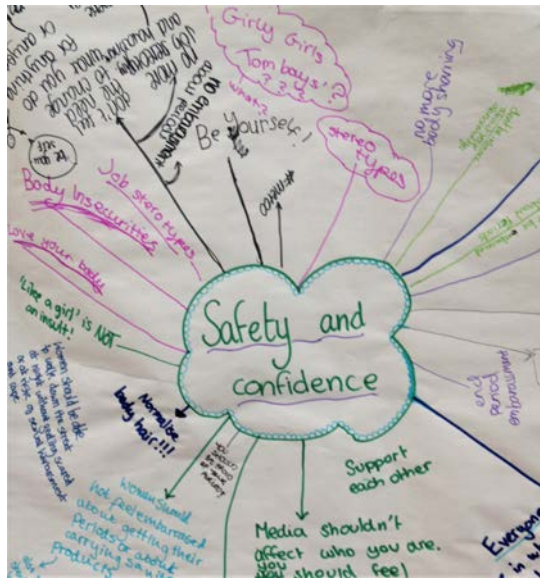
- More gender-neutral jobs
- Equality in outcomes i.e. what girls are capable of in their future
- Women as engineers
- More women in politics
- More women in parliament to help make important decisions
- Absence of women in Supreme Court
- Not many policewomen

- Stop suggestible names: milkman, dustman, fisherman, dinner ladies, lollipop ladies
- Helping women achieve higher roles in jobs and sports
- Fines for companies with gender pay gaps
- More gender-neutral jobs. More gender-neutral uniforms.
- Education about discrimination
- Not many women do jobs like building or electricians because they are seen • as jobs for males.
- Votes at 16
- Less of a patriarchal society
- Equal pay should be enforced
- Shared parental leave
- Stigma of young mothers. Stop shaming them. They have enough responsibility than to listen to people's hate.
- More support for cheaper day care
- I would like to be in a fair world and no one [is] embarrassed because the only reason for that is that people aren't treating others the same - for short we are all equal and different

Maria Caulfield MP responded to this topic. She acknowledged that women were not yet being fairly paid, and that legislation was there to make firms publish pay rates by gender. She said that something to be addressed was the fact that typically female careers tended to be lower paid - nursing (her first career) and teaching were examples of this. She spoke directly to the girls present when she said "I heard what you said today. I will lobby for better pay for these professions." She returned to her own background, when she said that she didn't have the opportunities today's girls have, and exhorted them to use them. Go into politics, she said, to empower those present to make a difference locally and nationally. "You hold the keys to your future."

SAFETY AND CONFIDENCE

This theme was linked to the stereotyping, but also communicated how girls and young women in Lewes do not feel safe. This ranged from sexual harassment, cat calling, the fear of rape.



It's a basic human right to respect that women should be able to live freely without fear

- Men shouldn't rape - women shouldn't have to be taught to be safe
- Teach men that cat calling is wrong
- Girls should not be embarrassed about themselves
- Respecting refugees
- Less pressure on girls
- Educate about female masturbation
- Schools should be a safe place
- Support for Me Too
- Awareness about sexual harassment in educational institutions and the workplace.
- Believe her
- Less victim blaming
- Women should not be afraid to speak out
- Support for victims
- Drugs and date rape
- Cat calling
- sexual objectification.
- Checkups yearly (for STDs)
- Reduce stigma
- Education about sexual assault and abuse in schools
- Harassment in workplaces (from customers)
- No means No
- Rape should not be taken lightly It is called a form of assault for a reason.
- Respect those who choose to become transgender - it doesn't hurt anyone around them (physically). Should be accepted as their decision choice

The girls are also concerned about how boys and men suffer

- *Stop idolizing men as predators and realise men can be victims as well*
- *Men are still men but it's OK to do certain things e.g. house husbands, crying, certain colours, things they like. It's not wimpy to like cooking*
- *It goes both ways. It helps women not to be [the] only carers*

Giles York, the Chief Constable for Sussex, responded to this topic, and he used the opportunity to discuss policing as a career for women. He said that about 34% of police officers are women and that police forces across the UK are looking to increase this number. He said that if today's women want to change things, they had to be part of it.

Addressing the safety issue, he said that the police will take seriously all reports made to them and that women should be confident to report. He encouraged anyone to contact the police if they had concerns over their safety, whilst encouraging those attending to work together to make a safer environment for everyone – "...be that difference yourself."

BODY CONFIDENCE

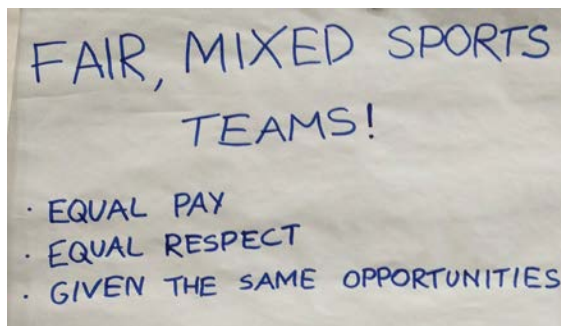
Period poverty was a common strand: the fact that sanitary products were taxed as a luxury item but were essential (VAT on these products is now due to be scrapped)

- *Remove tax on sanitary products*
- *Sanitary products should be available to all*
- *Stop period shaming - there is such a stigma. Why? It's natural - get over it*

Baroness Olly Grender is a long-standing advocate on the issue of period poverty and encouraged the girls to consider using 'moon cups' which are reusable silicone cups to replace tampons. She got the whole audience of girls to wave their hands in the air and chant "I am amazing! I am confident!" She was keen that girls talk about periods openly, as normal, and not see them as embarrassing or shameful.

MIXED SPORTS TEAMS

Lewes is very proud of Lewes Football Club, particularly for its gender equality initiative. It's the first club on the planet to pay its women players the same as the men, giving them equal access to resources, and having both teams play on the same pitch. The players featured in this booklet and the Club spend time in schools talking to young women and men about the value of sport.

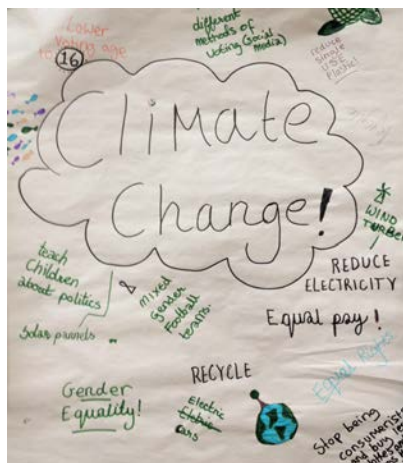


- More support for women's sports
- Mixed sports teams so girls can play with boys in cricket and football and other sports
- They want to play more sports
- Female bowling
- Female golf
- And they want to play in mixed teams and to have the same opportunities to play different sports to the boys
- "run like a girl" - stop the derogatory expressions

Karen Dobres, elected director at Lewes FC, spoke to this priority. She said "Sport is a really important activity for young women: it teaches them to play as a team rather than compete with each other; they can get hot and sweaty rather than worrying about their appearance; it gives them physical confidence in their bodies." These lessons have been very influential in how young women in Lewes see themselves.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Awareness of climate change and the changes we will all have to make in our lives was a key theme. They are conscious of being the generation that will have to cope with the impact of climate as they grow up. Alongside that, there was an urge to prioritise care of animals.



- Encourage less driving, or electric cars
- Stop chopping down trees
- Reduce pollution from big brands and rich companies by being less consumerist
- Solar power
- Beaches, cleaner seas
- Less plastic
- Ban the use of plastic straws and make single use products illegal (find alternatives)
- Healthy food cheaper

Professor Richard Jolly, who had worked with the UN, responded first to this topic. He spoke about the first conference on Climate in Stockholm in 1972, and how things had changed since then, but not enough. He said we needed to take the 'long view' as it takes time to get people on board. That international action depends on the success of national actions.

Cllr Susan Murray also took up the topic. She said it is not just an issue for us, but for generations yet to come. That it can be overwhelming. Lewes Council had agreed that action was needed, that we are in a state of crisis. She reiterated that we can all make a difference - and that everyone should use their Council, and make sure they are doing what they said they'd do - "Keep on our backs!"

RESPECT

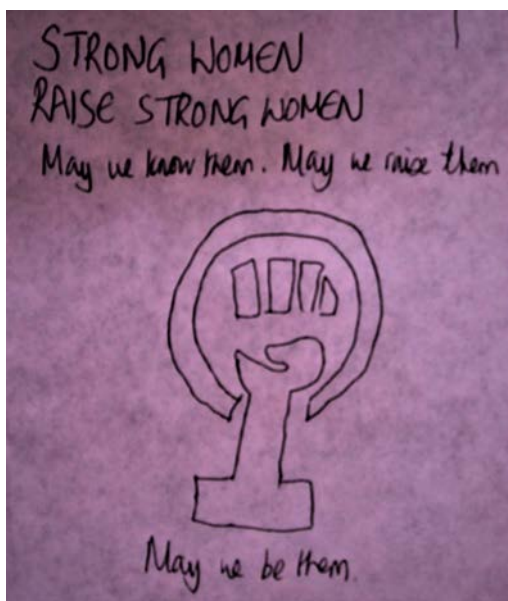
This theme had two parts: one respect for people in other countries and cultures. And strong support for a similar event for boys.

- *"this is a debate about women's relationships with men but how is it possible to have this debate without men"*
- *Respect women equally regardless of their culture and race*
- *I'd like to see a day when everyone respected each other no matter their gender, culture, anything. Women being equal no matter their culture. I'd love to see that*
- *Stop FGM*
- *Ending child marriages*
- *All women to receive free education.*
- *I want girls around the world to have the same education as boys*
- *(Allow) abortion in Northern Ireland*
- *Encourage men to be more open about mental health - young men have the highest % of suicide*
- *Get rid of stereotypes of feminism.*
- *Men should be taught the true meaning of feminism*
- *Feminism doesn't favour women it favours equality*
- *Make everyone want to be a feminist*
- *Boys should be aware*
- *"it's just boys being boys" should never be an excuse*
- *reduce toxic masculinity - allow men to show emotion*
- *Both men and women should change their attitudes to each other*
- *Stop double standards*
- *Dignity: not to be seen as vulnerable. No patronising*
- *The important people to not just focus on this country but others because the more we have the easier it is to fight*

Cross-party peer Baroness Whitaker attended, not in her robes, but dressed in the colours of a suffragette, wearing the sash and rosette of the suffragette movement. She exhorted the girls to use their votes, because politics makes change. Democracy empowers all of us, she said. One school had wanted votes at age 16 – and she was all for it. She donated her sash and the rosette to the Mayor.

One girl summed up the aims of the day as being to preserve and promote the opinions that young girls have of themselves, for example:

- The capability to do anything
- To run as fast as she can
- To stand up for herself
- And not let anyone stop her



RIGHTS, DIGNITY, HOPE – Outline Lesson Plan

The plan is in response to the Girls for Change event in April 2019 in which over a hundred girls took part. They shared their views on the things they would like to change and the result of their discussions will be kept for 10 years in a sealed box.

The girls expressed a view that boys should be included in these discussions. The lesson plan below is based on a mixed group and It is anticipated the sessions will be a mixture of mixed and single sex groups. The plan can be adapted for a single sex group.

The process/ session(s) should be hosted by a female and male teacher/facilitator and, if possible, there should be a female and male speaker, who would ideally be available for the whole session(s).

The focus of the session is change and the speakers should ideally have a lived experience of change and/or a knowledge of the practise and history of change. They could be local MP/Councillor, member of a campaign group, member of a women's group/men's group, an academic with an expert knowledge of change.

The ideal time would be for a half-day session. The sessions could have a particular focus, e.g. Sex and Sexuality, Environment, Young People and the Law etc. The session(s) can be part of Citizenship education in schools or a tutorial programme in colleges, drawing on this booklet and the links in the Resources section of www.Vote100Lewes.com

Teacher	Students	Mins	Resources
Introduce session Introduce speaker(s)	Ask questions	25	
Set up activity on each table of 5. They can be mixed or single sex groups. Give examples Circulate to ensure all participate	Write heading "What do you want to Change" Discuss All put post it notes on flip chart paper	30	Flip chart paper on each table Pens Post it notes
Display flip chart paper on walls	Feedback from each group. Collate responses	25	
Break and refreshments		10	
Introduce second part of session. Bring boys and girls groups together Ask students to think of one thing they could do to bring about change	Feedback from both groups. Discussion on outcomes and agree on priorities Individual students write one thing they could do to bring about change. Place in envelope to be reviewed at end of year	25 10	 Paper envelopes
Conclusion and thanks	Students complete feedback form on session	10	Feedback form

Thanks to the schools who participated

Kings Academy
The Old Grammar School
Western Road CP School
East Sussex College
St Pancras Catholic Primary School
Southover CE Primary School
Wallands Community Primary School
Priory School

Thanks to the guests who attended

Mr Peter Field Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex
Mrs Violet Hancock High Sheriff of East Sussex
Mr Tim Hancock
Cllr Janet Baah Mayor of Lewes
Cllr Susan Murray Deputy Mayor of Lewes
Cllr Roger Murray Deputy Consort
Heather Downie Maker of Banner
Grace Nichols Poet
Tony Kalume Drummer
Cllr Stephen Gauntlett Chair Lewes District Council
Chief Constable Giles York QPM Sussex Police
Louise Crawford Sussex Police
Baroness Grender MBE
Baroness Janet Whitaker
Maria Caulfield MP for Lewes
Stephen Lloyd MP Eastbourne & Willingdon

Sir Richard Jolly, IDS University of Sussex
Professor Gillian Hampden-Thompson
Professor of Education, University of Sussex
Vanessa Gebbie,
Chris Gebbie Past High Sheriff
Councillor Gill Mattock Mayor of Eastbourne
Karen Dobres Press Officer Lewes FC Women
Cllr I Makepeace
Cllr R Burrows
Cllr Dr G Mayhew
Cllr M Chartier
Cllr A Barker
Julia Blake Past Mayoress

Thanks to the volunteers and Town Hall staff who helped make it happen

Brigitte Lardinois Senior Research Fellow Acting Director Photography and Archive Research
Centre University of the Arts London / Reeves Archive
Jane Foot Reeves Archive
Diana Wilkins Reeves Archive
Caroline Pick Reeves Archive
Lizzie Zeyfert LTC Staff
Fiona Garth LTC Staff
Lee Symons LTC Mace Bearer
Mick Larkin LTC Staff

Special thanks to Vanessa Gebbie for her notes of the day, especially of the guest contributions.
Many thanks to Fiona Garth for organising the Girls Day event and Sue Porter for the lesson plan.



In 2018, Lewes celebrated women winning the right to vote – a major milestone in democracy. This booklet explores the legacy of the suffrage campaign and its meaning for us today. It tells the stories of 100 Lewes Women, past and present, records the commemorative events held in the town, and, most importantly, highlights the hopes of girls and young women today.

Profits from this book will go to Brighton-based charity Rise UK which helps people affected by domestic abuse.